



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



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VOLUME 36

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2010

Coming Shows, 2010

August 20-21
Tahlequah, OK
Tahlequah Rock and Mineral Soc.
Tahlequah Community Building

August 21-22
Bossier City, LA
Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Soc.
Bossier Civic Center

August 28-29
Jasper, TX
Pine Country Gem and Mineral Soc.
The Event Center

September 4-5
Arlington, TX
Arlington Gem and Mineral Club
Arlington Convention Center

September 11
Tulsa, OK
Indian Nations Artifacts & Fossils
Oral Roberts University, Mabee Ctr.

President's Message:

I was glad to see everyone at the meeting. Don presented an excellent program on the trilobites found at Black Cat Mountain in Oklahoma. He has arranged a field trip complete with ticks, rattlesnakes, rough terrain and high temperatures. There will be opportunities for surface collecting and breaking rock. Definitely not for the faint of heart but sounds like a real adventure and a great opportunity to find some unique specimens. Contact Don for more details. And thank you Don for arranging this field trip. Tom Stringfellow brought in some examples of the work his students produced in recent workshops he has held. He has more workshops scheduled and I plan on attending some after the hay season is over, which may be soon if we don't get some rain. I appreciate Tom opening up his workshop to the club to enable members to learn new skills. Once again this brings up the need for a clubhouse so we can set up our equipment and teach classes for members - juniors and adults. If you know of a building that might work for the club please let us know. Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Until then, happy collecting and safety first.

Rip Criss



EDITOR'S NOTE

The next meeting will be on Sept. 13, due to the first Monday being Labor Day. The annual auction has also been moved from Sept. to Oct. in the hopes that more people will attend over last year.

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AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:01 p.m., August 2, 2010, at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, with 24 members and several guests present.

Motion to accept the minutes of the July meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter was made, seconded and the motion carried.

Jeri Kitchens, club treasurer, gave the monthly financial report. There was no old business brought before the members.

Tom Stringfellow gave a brief synopsis of the class in soldering he held for club members in July. He had brought several examples of what was taught in the class, to be passed around and admired. Susan Burch, one of those who had taken the class also brought the pendant she made there, along with a few other pieces of jewelry.

Due to the extreme heat, no club field trips are planned for August. Don Campbell had detailed handouts for the club trip scheduled for Sept. 11, to Oklahoma for fossils, primarily trilobites.

Keith Harmon offered to obtain door prizes to be awarded at the Club's annual show in January 2011. Motion was made by Penny Hawkins to authorize Keith and Charlotte to purchase the prizes, motion was seconded by Euva Scott and approved by the members present.

Door prizes were awarded, followed by a short break for refreshments.

Don presented the program, a slide show, Introduction to Trilobite Hunting on Black Cat Mountain, near Clarita, OK. He even told the audience how the "mountain" got its name. His slides emphasized the need for a 4-wheel drive vehicle with high ground clearance to get up to the mine and only if there has been relatively dry weather. In case of rain-swollen creeks, Don has some alternative locations for hunting but if the group gets to the mine/quarry at Black Cat Mountain, Don guarantees everyone will find a trilobite. Fee to collect at the quarry is \$20 per person.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



Tom Stringfellow is trying to put together a class in PMC, but dates have yet to be decided. He has said that if anyone has an interest in learning something related to the hobby that he might know, he would gladly try to put a class together for them to learn. For more information or to ask about classes you would like to take, please call Tom at 903-839-6744 or email him at tomstring@aol.com

Tote That Rock -----

Lift That Tool bag

Mel Albright, AFMS Safety Chair

One thing that we rockhounds do a whole bunch - pick up rocks - little rocks, bigger rocks, and big rocks. Rocks by themselves, rocks in boxes, rocks in buckets, rocks in sacks - all are ways we collect and move rocks. And heavy tool bags are lifted all too often.

The classic joke picture of rockhounds is a bunch of people standing with straight legs, bent over at the waist, and touching the ground with their hands. It is too often true, unfortunately. Another thing we rockhounds do is put those heavy



tools and rocks into a vehicle - or take them out. - often by swinging things. And - the result is a lot of bad backs, sore backs, back strains, sometimes even permanently damaged backs. So, we need to learn - AND PRACTICE - the proper way to lift and lower heavy stuff (actually - light stuff, too) without hurting ourselves. To lift and move something, several steps should be followed. We'll pretend we're picking up a rock, but the rules are the same for ANYTHING we pick up - even our dirty socks.

1. Stand with your feet apart about shoulder width, the rock between your feet, and one foot slightly in front of the other (for balance).
2. Lower yourself by bending your knees until you can grab the rock. The rock should be close to your body. Keep your back straight and your chin tucked in.
3. SLOWLY lift the rock by straightening up your knees pushing with your leg muscles. Keep the rock in close to your body. Do NOT twist sideways.
4. Once standing, DO NOT TWIST your back. To move the rock sideways, turn with your feet. Keep the rock in close to your body.
5. Once you get where you are going with the rock, reverse the steps you used to lift the rock. Remember - KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT!!
6. If the rock must go into a trunk or car or whatever, set it down on the edge keeping a straight back. Then slide it into the vehicle. Most of us will bend over at the waist and swing it in - a sure way to get a bad back!
7. You aren't SUPERMAN OR WOMAN! If the rock or bucket or bag is too heavy for you to carry easily, do it another way! Get help. Use a skid made from a heavy cloth or a wood slat with a rope tied to the end. Roll the rock using a long handled tool to pry with. Use your ingenuity!

From the RockCollector 6/09 via April, 1998 AFMS Newsletter via Calgary Lapidary Journal, June 2009; via Stoney Statements 0 8/10



How to Cut Obsidian Author unknown

GOLD SHEEN: To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates, and you wish to unstuck them. Watch for “fire spots” in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheen.

IRIDESCENT: There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded and the color lies in the bands. On the unbanded types of obsidian the surface has to be chipped to find the color. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded types will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get effect. To get a rainbow effect, cut the stone at an approximately 15-degree angle across the bands.

MIDNIGHT LACE: Lace-patterned obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce. Although obsidian is comparatively soft, it is still very important to sand away all scratches before going to polish. Some advise that wet sanding be done, since obsidian is heat sensitive and very brittle. For final polish, felt with cerium oxide is the choice. Should you be faceting some particularly gemmy obsidian try cerium oxide on Lucite®, but keep it wet.

RAINBOW OBSIDIAN: Cut parallel to flow layers. These can be seen by examining fractured surfaces using an overhead single lamp bulb. As [the layers] are not always straight, it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly in the saw. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle has been obtained.

SAFETY TIP: After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut your eye to a great extent before it could be removed.

GRINDING OBSIDIAN CABS: Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a “shattering” experience, as obsidian fractures conchoidally and this is a sure way to do it.

POLISH ON OBSIDIAN: Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing will result in blisters and scratches. Obsidian is relatively inexpensive, easy to obtain and soft. With proper understanding of its glassy properties you can obtain some great polish.

Article reprinted from the AFMS March 2010 Newsletter; Via Stoney Statements 8/10



Peridot By John Zentz for Star-O-Lite

Wear a peridot or for thee, No conjugal fidelity, The August born without this stone, 'Tis said, must live unloved; alone. [Author unknown]

The traditional birthstones for August are sardonyx and carnelian. The modern birthstone is peridot. Last month's newsletter (Stoney Statements) touched on sardonyx and contained a brief article on carnelian, so I will focus on peridot this month.

No matter how you pronounce the word peridot, it stands out as an affordable, yet striking, gemstone. There will always be people ready to correct you when you pronounce it, but you can easily find authorities for either —pear-a-doeel or —pear-a-dotll. My advice? Pick your preference and defend it like an authority.

Besides its attractiveness as a yellowish-green gemstone, the physical composition of peridot is interesting to many rockhounds. While not technically classified as a mineral, olivine is a series between two end members, fayalite and forsterite. The whole series contains SiO_4 with pure fayalite being Fe_2SiO_4 and pure forsterite being Mg_2SiO_4 . These pure end members seldom occur in nature. The iron and magnesium can occur in varying percentages through the series with iron rich specimens being much darker than magnesium rich specimens. Though some iron is required for the color, gem peridot is usually olivine with less than 15% iron, and includes trace amounts of nickel and chromium for what is considered the very best color.

Another interesting fact about olivine in general, and peridot specifically, is its presence in many iron-nickel meteorites. These crystals from outer space can sometimes make up over 50% of the volume of the meteorite. A thin meteor-ite slice from the Fukang meteor-ite held up to the sun. Peridot has been mined for well over 3,000 years but has only become known in the United States in the past century. Until recently its primary source was a tiny Red Sea island off the southeast coast of Egypt currently named Zabargad. Today, substantially sized gem quality peridot is found in Myanmar (aka Burma), Pakistan, Southwest USA, and China. Small crystals of peridot are found all over the world, with the green sand beaches of Hawaii being a notable example.

With a hardness just under seven, peridot wears well and is used in all types of jewelry. Its color is foremost when evaluating quality and is sometimes compared against emeralds. This is unfortunate because even the most desirable peridot cannot compare favorably against the much costlier emerald. Compare peridot colors against each other and enjoy one of the few green gemstones in its own right.

Another interesting physical characteristic of peridot is its double refraction, or birefringence. As light enters the gem it splits in two and results in double images of anything seen inside or through the gem. As the gem gets larger, so does the effect. This results in what is termed a —sleepy appearance. This characteristic is usually demonstrated with the more common mineral calcite.

The terms chrysolite and evening emerald have been associated with peridot but are somewhat vague in their exact meaning. Chrysolite was used before we could accurately identify stones and was also used to describe some colors of topaz. The long used term evening emerald probably stems from peridot's brilliant green glow under some artificial light, but is also used by some sellers in an attempt to enhance a stone's value.

Peridot is thought to bring good luck, peace, health, protection, sleep and success. Some believe it

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attracts love and calms anger as well as other negative emotions. Legend says that if set in gold, it will develop its full protective potential. Further, according to the first century authority Pliny the





Elder, peridot must be worn on the right arm to work its strongest magic. Pliny's advice stands in contradiction to another commonly held belief that peridot must be strung onto donkey's hair and worn on the left arm to fully realize its potential.

Some believe peridot to be an excellent healing stone, strengthening and regenerating the body. It is also said to strengthen eyesight and provide relief from stomach disorders. Even the stone's color is associated with healing.

As a gemstone, peridot has something in common with diamond. Most inorganic gemstones form in the earth's crust. However, diamond and peridot are exceptions and form much deeper in the region known as the mantle.

While diamond forms significantly deeper, both require transfer to the earth's surface by tectonic or volcanic activity where they can then be found in extrusive igneous rock. While relatively inexpensive, I believe the processes and circumstances required to make a peridot gem available to us make it a very desirable adornment. Whether transported upward by volcanic activity, folded or pushed miles upward tectonically, or fallen from some unknown celestial origin, the sleepy green stone that seems to glow in manmade light commands respect and admiration as it adorns a child of August.

Via Stoney Statements 08/10 [*Photographs from Internet*]



HINTS & TIPS FROM ALL OVER

DON'T PUT IVORY IN THE DARK where it tends to turn yellow. If it has started to yellow, you can retard this by taking 1/2 lemon, rubbing it in some salt and then rub it over the ivory. After the ivory is dry, take a soft cloth that has been dampened with lukewarm water and rub the ivory to give it a bright new finish.

TOXIC WASTE: To dispose of acids used for cleaning, place the acid in a plastic or earthenware container, add a few pieces of limestone until the bubbling stops. The acid has been neutralized and can be safely poured out almost anywhere.

TO CLEAN GALENA OR CERUSSITE, use dental plate cleaner.

TO STABILIZE CRUMBLY MATRIX, use a solution of 1/2 Elmer's glue and 1/2 water in the back side.

PUT VASELINE around the rim of your tumbler before bolting on the lid. It makes a tighter seal and it is easier to remove.

NEVER USE AMMONIA or detergent on turquoise. Ammonia will turn turquoise white. This is a good way to test for genuineness.

WHEN WORKING WITH A SOFT STONE such as onyx or marble, soak it in water for a couple of days before cutting. This will keep oil from soaking in to discolor the stone and will result in a higher polish.

Above from Rock Chips 11/88

Need another idea for those extra slabs? Why not try your hand at making switch plates? Wouldn't some nice agate or marble plates look better under those wall switches than those old, ivory-colored plastic things?

Via Rock and Gem 3/99 via The Cowtown Cutter 2/99; via Stoney Statements 08/10



WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS IN THE EARTH SCIENCES?

Whether you enjoy going into a jewelry store or gem show and picking out a lovely finished piece, or collecting the material to make it yourself, it is all part of the same hobby. The Earth Sciences are a wide range of studies from Volcanism (study of volcanoes), Geology (the rocky parts of the Earth's crust and its historic development), connected to this are Mineralogy, Petrology, Geochemistry, Geomorphology, Paleontology (Pre-historic life/fossils), Structural Geology, Engineering Geology and Sedimentology. Our club touches on each of these, but it does so much more. It brings together novice and expert alike who have the same interests. It gives members the opportunity to collect specimens, learn about how they are formed and perhaps how to make them into wearable art. You don't have to know anything about the Geo-sciences, just have an interest in any part of the hobby. Whether it be collecting, identification, wire-wrapping, faceting or cabbing, there is something to peak almost everyone's interest.

The preceding paragraph is actually in our club's membership brochure. One of the things that got me interested in actually being part of a Gem & Mineral club was the possibility of learning to do something with the rocks that I had found or bought. Namely wire-wrapping. Now I've gone into the reason I love rocks and what started me collecting in a previous article. However, I thought I would share why I joined the club, what drew me to this group of people that had an interest in what most would say "oh it's just a rock".

About 6 years or so ago, I attended the annual show of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society. Since my teen-age years I had been beading and collecting rock specimens while on trips and visits to different shops. However, it had come time for me to learn how to do something with them. As I perused the vender's booths, I came to the back where the silent auction table was. On this table were some older issues of the Lapidary Journal, on the cover of one was a picture of a few pieces of wire-wrapped jewelry. Now, I had not seen this type of thing before, I had heard about it, been curious. Was there a way to make jewelry out of precious metal that did not require a torch or string? So, I started asking a few people who were standing around, soon I was directed to Bill Holbert. This member graciously invited me to his home to show me the basics, even loaning me a few videos he had on the subject. Making it a point to invite me to the meetings. WOW! I was impressed, that someone would enjoy their hobby so much and offer this knowledge to a perfect stranger.

The first meeting I was able to attend happened to be the annual auction, now that just blew me away. The fun everyone had, bidding and out-bidding the other members, yet not getting really mad over a loss. Having real joy in their hobby. At that moment, I knew I wanted to be a part of this group. No doubt in my mind about it, (ssshhh, don't tell anyone but I really felt like I belonged with this group who liked what I did but what a lot of people had thought of as my 'nerdy side').

It still amazes me when I learn something new at the meetings, or when researching for the newsletter. It is greatly appreciated on my part, when I am in the presence of those who've been in the hobby a long time, sharing their expertise with those of us that wouldn't know an agate from marble, a simplistic illustration at best. However, sometimes I've found that some of those in the hobby have no use or liking for the other interests in our hobby...you know it's all one hobby, just different aspects of it. It's a shame when someone who is willing to share their knowledge is cut off from doing so, just because it may not interest everyone or in particular the powers that be. You know, I honestly feel that we need that variety so as not to bore new ones, and those that might not share an interest in what you like.

That is why as newsletter editor, I have really tried to find a variety of articles to please most of the members. Some may have an interest in fossils some may have an interest in jewelry making, others may just be interested in field trips. It is the whole membership and the interests of everyone that makes the club well rounded. If we divided up into groups who just liked one aspect or another, those groups wouldn't be very big and soon you wouldn't have a club anymore. Please, value the other members, respect that their interests may not lie in the same field as yours, but just as important to the hobby. Plus, there just might be more members interested in that aspect than you realize.

Thanks to all who volunteer their time to make up our club and bring knowledge and enjoyment to the other members. Whether that be with meeting presentations, field trips, classes...or those behind the scenes who keep things together. We need everyone, and that includes their interest in whatever part of the hobby we or they like. I really wouldn't want to be a part of a group who were narrow minded or left out the things I liked, would you?

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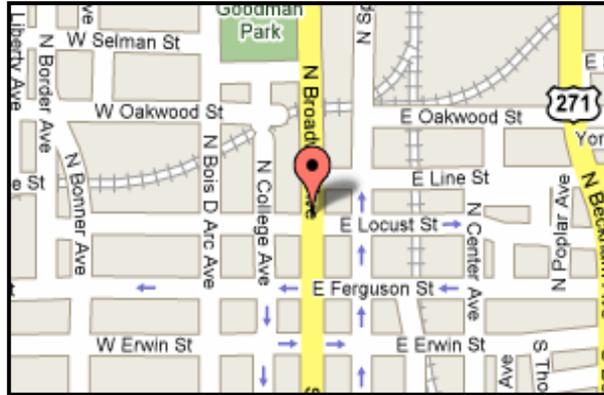
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER,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

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.

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.

Thank you... SB



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