

ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

VOLUME 45

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

Upcoming Events

APRIL 19-20

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT
GMC
ALPINE CIVIC CENTER
ALPINE, TX

MAY 4-5

WACO G&MS
EXTRACO EVENTS CENTER
WACO, TX

MAY 25-26

FORT WORTH GMC
WILL ROGERS MEM CTR
FORT WORTH, TX

JUNE 1-2

LUBBOCK G&MS
LUBBOCK MEM CIVIC CTR
LUBBOCK, TX

JUNE 30 - JULY 1

ARLINGTON G&MS
109 SOUTH MAIN ST
GRAPEVINE, TX

President's Message

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been volunteering on all the different projects. It is much appreciated. It is really exciting to see all of the new members and visitors we have had at the last couple of meetings. We still have work to do on the building and the weather should start getting a little better. We will start planning some work days to finish the front office/display room and then we need to build the walls for the other rooms. These are not small projects and more help is better.



There was a great turnout for our April club meeting. Those of you that couldn't make it missed an excellent program on wire wrapping. Thank you! Terry for keeping things running smoothly while I was out of town. With that being said, the program in May will be over a short weekend trip I was able to take up to the Batesville Arkansas Quarry with the Arkansas Mineral and Gem Society. (MAGS) at the end of March. I also was able to go to a private quartz quarry near Mt. Ida and I will have pictures of that as well.

Reminder-ETGMS is setting up a booth at the Tyler Mini Makers Faire at the Discovery Science Place again this year on April 27th. If you are interested in helping out in our booth, contact me and I will put you on the list. It is always better when we have plenty of help, so let's get enough members signed up so we don't have any problems this year.

Don't forget to submit your vote for Rockhound of the Month for May, so we can choose from all the entries. Please write a short reason why you chose that particular club member and what they did that impressed you enough to feel they deserve to be recognized.

Fred Mahaffey

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I want to thank Matthew Laster, Lynn Metcalf, Terry Roberts, and Julia Toombs for your contributions to this month's newsletter. Your articles are what makes our newsletter special. Please get to work on your submissions for next month's newsletter. Remember, the deadline is May 10th.

MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 6:50 pm. on April 1, 2019. Vice-President Terry Roberts led the meeting as Fred Mahaffey was absent. Terry asked if there were any visitors or new members present, but there were none. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion. Colleen Hayes seconded it, and the motion carried. Marcia Graham gave the treasury report, which included \$1,000 out for a used cabbng machine.

Announcements:

- Door prize tickets and silent auction items
- The Library is ready for member use. Delbert and Joyce Speed donated 50 books to the Club. Many are signed by the author.
- Lapidary sub-group – Terry said the next meeting is April 13th at 2 pm and the making of gem trees will be the subject. At 9:00 am that day, there will be a wire-wrapping class.
- Mineral sub-group – Charles Creekmur will have the materials needed to identify minerals, so bring your unknowns on April 9th at 6:30 pm.
- Fossil sub-group – David Russ stated that the March 9th field trip was to the Eocene Formation at Highway 21 and the bridge. Eight members collected gastropods, bi-valves, and tiny corals. The next meeting will be April 16th at 6:30 pm.
- Gemology sub-group –The next meeting is April 18th at 6:30 pm and precious opals will be discussed.
- Events - April 6th – Keith Harmon's Annual Rock Sale beginning at 9:00 am.
April 20th – Clubhouse Rock Swap - Be there at 8:00 am to set up. The club will provide hot dogs.
April 27th – Arlington Rock Swap.
April 27th – Tyler Mini-Maker's Faire.
- Field trip - April 26th – 28th – Graves Mountain, Georgia.

Old business:

- Webmaster position **really** needed.
- Newsletter – Junior articles or poems requested.
- Field trip chairperson **really** needed.
- A Scholarship chairperson is **really** needed.

New business:

- Colleen Hayes was presented with a certificate for her time as treasurer.
- Kinney passed out awards from the American Federation and Rockhound of the Month for January thru April. (See Kinney's article for winners.)
- Margaret Kilanski has placed announcements in the Tyler paper under Club Activities.
- Jim Kitchen brought a 20-pound piece of nephrite jade from British Colombia to show.
- It is time to send money to the American Federation Scholarship Fund. Kinney made the motion to send \$500, Keith seconded it, and the motion carried.
- Randy Harmon would like to do a program at Breckenridge Village, a home for the mentally challenged. He requests program suggestions.
- Tonight's program will be given by Terry with a how-to video on wire wrapping.

With no more business to discuss, Kinney Polve made a motion to adjourn, Randy Harmon seconded it, and the motion carried. Door prizes and refreshments followed. The next meeting will be May 6th at 6:45 pm. The program will be on the field trip to Arkansas for Dog Tooth Calcite and quartz.

Submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary



We had gotten a little behind recognizing our Rockhounds of the Months. At the April meeting Terry Roberts handed out certificates for the winners. The January winner was Terry Roberts. The February winner was Marcia Graham. The March winner was Margaret Kilanski. And the April winner is Julia Toombs. The Rockhound of the Month is a great way to recognize our members that work hard to make our organization run smoothly. Quite often, we don't see all that a member might do, but take the time to see what is getting done, and take a few minutes to nominate one of our hardworking members.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 14	15	16 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	17	18 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	19	20 Rock Swap 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26 Graves Mountain Field Trip	27 Tyler Makers Faire Graves Mountain
28 Graves Mountain Field Trip	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
5	6 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	7	8	9	10	11 Lapidary/Jewelry Group 2:00 pm
12	13	14 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	15	16 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	17	18
19	20	21 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	22	23	24	25

2019 Field Trip Schedule

April	Rock Swap - Clubhouse	April 20 th	Rock Swap, Cook Out
April	Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, Georgia	April 26 th , 27 th , 28 th	Pyrite, Kyanite, Ilmenite, Lazulite, Pyrophyllite, Hematite, Goethite, Sulphur, Iridescent Hematite, Rutile, etc.
May	Mason, Texas	May 24 th , 25 th	Topaz, Indian Artifacts
June	Michigan, Missouri	June 17 th - 24 th	Druzy Quartz, Poker Chip Calcite, Copper, Agates
July	Oklahoma	July 26 th , 27 th	Hourglass Selenite, Fossils
August	Magnet Cove, Arkansas		Pyrite
September	Rock Swap - Clubhouse	September 21 st	Rock Swap, Cook Out
September	Duncanville, Texas	September 28 th	Septarian, Fossils
October	Mt. Ida, Arkansas	October 26 th , 27 th	Quartz Crystals
November	TBD		
December	Christmas Party	December 2 nd	

Note: Schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society ROCK SWAP

Saturday April 20, 2019, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

ETGMS Clubhouse

2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas

ETGMS will be hosting a rock swap. Other rock clubs are encouraged to join us, and the public is welcome. You can set up your table inside the clubhouse or just tailgate on the back lot. We are limiting indoor space to one 6 or 8 foot table. Come and buy, sell or swap. There should be a good selection of club-related items. Bring your minerals, fossils, rough material, slabs, handmade items, equipment, etc. It should be a great day for camaraderie. If that isn't enough, we will be cooking up some hot dogs for lunch. See you there.

Lapidary Work of a Different Kind

By Kinney Polve

Last month I decided to finish up a lapidary project I had put off for a few years. A few years ago, during a trip to Quartzsite, AZ, I purchase a not so small slab. When I saw it, I had a particular project in mind. Most of the time my projects are considerably smaller, but you never know what goes on in a rockhound's head. The time had come to complete the project and get this big slab out of my workshop. After scrounging up enough metal to build the base, it was time to employ my talented welder, Vicky Polve, to weld them all together. A nice coat of black paint, and it was time to work on the slab. The slab is one and a half inch thick and had a pretty good shine, but I figured it needed a little more. I coated the top and sides with a tabletop resin to do the job. This is the perfect addition as an end table in our living room.



GEMOLOGY GROUP

For those who weren't there last evening, we had a good meeting and I think everyone enjoyed playing with the tools and the gems I brought. Jim Kitchen won the door prize. He was allowed to pick out three gems from the mixed parcel of gems I brought for us to practice with. I hope everyone learned some valuable skills and will practice to get them down. Allison brought sandwiches which we all enjoyed.

We briefly discussed changing the day (or night) of the meeting. I know one member of the club who would like to be part of the group but has other commitments on Thursday. Also, the 3rd Thursday I think is a bit late in the month to get my report in to Kinney for the Newsletter. I asked for input from those present last night and would welcome any additional input from those who weren't there, especially evenings you cannot make it. I'll look at the club calendar to see how we can change the day without interfering with other club activities.

We are also planning to start offering the practical/lab sessions for the Gem Identification soon. Details are still being worked out. If there is interest, we can also offer another Gem Identification Theory class soon as well.

Richard D. Armstrong, CM, ASG, GG, GP, AJP



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FOSSIL GROUP

On March 9th seven members of the ETGMS Fossil Group traveled to the Brazos River Bridge at Hwy 21 to collect Eocene marine fossils. The formation is in the range of about 47 Mya. Fossils from two phyla were collected, Cnidaria (coral) and Mollusca (Gastropods and Bivalves). On March 19th, the group met for our monthly Fossil Group meeting with all our cleaned and sorted finds for a successful identification session. David Russ



My Mini Museum

By Matthew Laster

Once I had so many fossils cluttering my room that I had to put them in two glass display cabinets from Ikea in my living room. I often look at them. I take out the fossils and think about where I found them, what they are, and how they lived. Usually I let people take them out and feel them. I have many kinds of fossils, such as ammonites, trilobites,and any other fossils you can think of, even devil's toenails!!!

I did not set the display case up on my own. I had the help of my mom and dad. It is still there holding my fossils today! But it's not ONLY fossils, that's only one. The other is holding rocks and paint. Yes, you heard right, paint, dried paint. My dad and I polished the paint so that you can see all the different layers inside. And not just any rocks, I also have geodes and other crystalized rocks, AND METEORITES!

To wrap it up, I will say how much I like my mini museum: I LOVE IT!

Special Note: Matthew Laster is one of our junior members and is currently 10 years old.



Why Should We Save Fossils?

Matthew Laster

I think we should protect fossils, because fossils tell about prehistoric life. I share this: people should know the real story of prehistoric life in Texas long ago. We can learn about this because fossils are around in my community.

Fossils are any animal or plant that has lost all of its flesh or plant matter. It died and was covered with layers of earth. Most of the time, this happened at the bottom of a body of water. Sediments on top prevented it from decaying so that it became solid rock over thousands of years.

Fossils tell us about what plants, dinosaurs, and lots more of prehistoric life did. For instance, fossils tell us about what dinosaurs ate and drank. Through fossils, I have learned about many ancient things that used to be living in my community like what mosasaur teeth look like. I know this because I have found some Mosasaur teeth, and my mom even found a Mosasaur jawbone in East Texas in the North Sulphur River near Ladonia. A mosasaur is not a dinosaur, but it is a reptile related to modern snakes and lizards. It could swallow its prey whole, like a snake. It grew up to 50 feet, but most of them were 10 feet.

At Benbrook Spillway in Fort Worth, I found a lot of medium ammonites, but they were stuck in the ground. There, I also found some gastropod and clam shells. The fossils I find tell me that there was a big ocean over Texas, because I find lots of shells and reptiles that swam, like the Mosasaur and clams. An ammonite is a fossilized shell that was first in the ocean along with trilobites. Ammonites are ancient cephalopods, and they are related to modern octopus, squid, cuttlefish, and nautilus.

I think we should protect fossils and not throw them away or just step on them or throw trash on them. I found an ammonite stuck in rock that had trash lying on it, but I picked up the trash. When fossils are found, we could collect them and make a place where everyone can come and enjoy them. Eventually, the fossils that are left outside are going to deteriorate, and then we couldn't look at them anymore. All the weather would wear them away, and if that happens, then little kids won't know what my community in Texas was like a long time ago. The whole world will forget the prehistoric Texas.

I am glad that some people protect fossils like at Dinosaur Valley State Park, but I would like it even more if everyone protected fossils. We should protect fossils so that in the future, kids won't ask, "What was Texas like long ago?" and can't see fossils in Texas. This could happen if there aren't any more fossils because people haven't taken care of them. Fossils are worth saving, because people can know about prehistoric life through them.

Special Note: Matthew entered this article in the "Save Texas History Essay Contest," so it won't qualify to enter the SCFMS Contest, but I really appreciated him submitting it for the newsletter. Great job!

A Look into the Past

By Julia Toombs

This month's look into the past won't be the usual article as my notes are on a computer, that I've been without for over a month. However, in the position of Librarian, I've had early access to some old magazines.

This first reference is from *Rock & Gem*, July, 1980. The article is "Arizona Three-in-One" by Dorothy Robertson. It is about a field trip for "Apache Tears" or obsidian nodules. They just lay all over the ground and ranged in size from pee-wee to fist-size. Have you ever wondered how some rocks, gems, or minerals get their nicknames? This is the story of "Apache Tears."

The tribes of the Apache nation resided in the mountains north and east of present-day Picket Post Mountains in the late 1860's. In July 1870, General George Stoneman established the Arizona Military District near the rich Silver King Mine, just west of present-day Superior. Sentinels were posted to watch for Indians. The high mountains and rugged region hid the Apache's trail. One day, sentries spotted an Indian lookout high above the rugged cliffs, just east of Picket Post on Big Picacho Mountain. The trail was found, followed, and a battle ensued. Nearly two-thirds of the seventy-five Apache warriors were killed. The remainder chose to leap to their deaths rather than be captured. Big Picacho was renamed The Apache Leap. The wives and sweethearts of the warriors gathered below the cliffs down whose crags hung the warriors' bodies. Their chants caused the gods to take pity on them so that their gleaming tears were changed into stone.

This second reference is humorous. The editorial is entitled "The Glory Hole", by W.R.C. Shedenhelm. A portion of the piece is the "Good Grief Department." In writing the captions for photos on cast feathers, he looked in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary under "feather." He wanted to know the correct word for the side 'thingees' on a feather, that stick out from the central quill. Here is the definition of a feather. "...one of the light horny epidermal outgrowths that form the external covering of the body of birds and that consist of a shaft bearing on each side a series of barbs which bear barbules which in turn bear barbicles commonly ending in hooked hamuli and interlocking with the barbules of an adjacent barb to link the barbs into a continuous vane." W.R.C. says "We still haven't the vaguest idea of the correct name of the little 'thingees' that stick out from the quill."

Another article that I won't go into is called "Garnets are Great," by Bob Jones. It gives a complete run down of the garnet family—species name, shape, color, and where to find them.

Maybe this will whet your appetite to use the Library, which is now ready. There are many duplicate issues that are organized on their own shelves in the meeting room and are available for 50 cents each.

I will end with a thank you to four people: to Kinney Polve for making the shelf dividers that allow the magazines to stand; to Terry Roberts for allowing me to use his computer to do two months (and maybe more depending on Customs) of minutes, articles, and shelf labeling; to Delbert and Joyce Speed for donating fifty books that will soon be added.

Gemologist's Friend: The Polishing Cloth

By Lynn Metcalf, G.G., GIA

There are many tools gemologists use to enable clear viewing of gemstones. Most basic among those tools is the polishing cloth. Using a clean polishing cloth to prepare gemstones for testing or viewing at higher magnification should be the first step in identifying and appraising a stone. A clean gemstone, free of lint, oils, stains, solvents and dirt allows the viewer to see into the material without the distortions caused by these elements.

Gemologists approach the use of gemstone cleaning cloths in a specific way. Although there are several ways to clean a gemstone, the advisability of using some methods is fraught with danger to many types of gems. Ultrasonic steam cleaning will damage opals. Garnets may crack if there are inclusions in the stone. Solvents will damage amber, ivory, and zoisite. Beryls (emerald, aquamarine and goshenite) and corundum (ruby and sapphire) that have been fracture-filled by miners and dealers are susceptible to cracking if there is feathering or liquid inclusions in the stone.

Why take the chance when a simple gemstone cleaning cloth will do the trick? Not any cloth, but one that is manufactured with the specific purpose of cleaning gemstones. The cleaning cloth will have sides that differ in feeling. The 'inner' side will feel slightly 'rougher' for grasping and removing dust, oils and particles not native to the stone. The outer side keeps hand oils and lotions from seeping through to the inside. The following illustrated procedure applies to the use of the cloth, which will last a long time if used properly:

- Remove the cloth from its protective covering and feel the two sides of the cloth. The rougher side will be the 'inside' of it.
- Fold the cloth in half.
- Fold the cloth again into a quarter of its size.
- Bring down the top loose corner to form a 'pocket' inside the cloth.
- Place your stone on the cloth and gently push the stone into the pocket you have made with a finger or gemologist's tweezers.
- Pinching your fingers on the cloth over the stone, gently rub the gem. Check the stone by grasping the stone with the tweezers. If dirt or residue is present, repeat the cleaning process until you are satisfied. Your stone is now ready for closer examination.

Always take the time to properly prepare your gemstones for examination. Are apparent gemstone inclusions real or caused by specs of dirt clinging to the table or pavilion of a gemstone? Only the knowledge that you have thoroughly cleaned a gemstone prior to viewing provides confidence that what you are seeing is real and true.





Personal Field Trip

By Kinney Polve

Fred Mahaffey, Vicky Polve, and I took a weekend field trip to Arkansas last month. We spent Saturday, March 30th, hunting for Dogtooth Calcite at the Midwest Lime Quarry near Batesville, Arkansas. On Sunday, we hunted quartz crystals at the Southfork Mine near Mt. Ida, Arkansas. I'll give you a little taste of what we found, but you'll have to attend the May monthly meeting to find out more. At the May 6th meeting, Fred Mahaffey will present a program about our trip. We found quite a bit of material, and I'm sure you'll be happy to take a piece home for your collection.





John Morrison gave me some turquoise slabs recently that he wanted cabbed. It didn't take long to do the job and they took a very nice polish.

Terry Roberts

Wire Wrapping Class

It was beginning to look like the Wire Wrapping Class Saturday, April 13th, was going to be cancelled due to bad weather, but there was just enough of a break in the weather to hold the class. There were nine members taking the class, and all of them were willing to brave Saturday's stormy weather. Terry Roberts and I instructed the class. As you can see, we had a bunch of nice pendants completed by our members.

The Lapidary/Jewelry group meeting for later on that afternoon was cancelled due to the thunder storms moving back in. The gem tree making topic will have to be moved the next month's L/J group meeting, unless another topic comes up.

Kinney Polve



Lapidary/Jewelry Group – Meets on the second Saturday of each month, except December and January. The meeting time is 2:00 pm. This group's meeting is all about lapidary (anything to do with cutting and polishing rocks) and jewelry making. Terry Roberts leads this group. To have your name added to the email list contact Terry Roberts - terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

Mineral Group – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about minerals, how to identify them, geology and the locations they can be found. Topics are decided on by the group leader and the members. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. If you are interested in learning more about minerals, get your name on the email list for this group by contacting Charles Creekmur - calcite65@gmail.com

Fossil Group – Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. If fossils are your thing, or you just want to learn a little more about fossils, this would be the group for you. Topics about fossils, locations where they can be found, and geological time periods are all discussed in this group. David Russ heads up the group, and if you would like to have your name added to the email list, contact David Russ - dbruss50@gmail.com

Gemology Group Meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about gemstone and the identification of gemstones. Topics are decided on by the group leaders and members. The group is led by Richard Armstrong. If you are interested in gemstones, identification, where their found, or any other related topic, this is the group for you. To have your name added to the email list, contact Richard Armstrong - keltfire@msn.com

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Please send any original info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below by the 10th of the month. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call. **AFMS & SCFMS Newsletters will be emailed to members, as to not duplicate that information here, unless it needs to be repeated.** Board meeting minutes are not published in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact an officer on the Board. The information in this newsletter may be reproduced for nonprofit use, as long as credit is given to the source.

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 regular monthly club meetings.

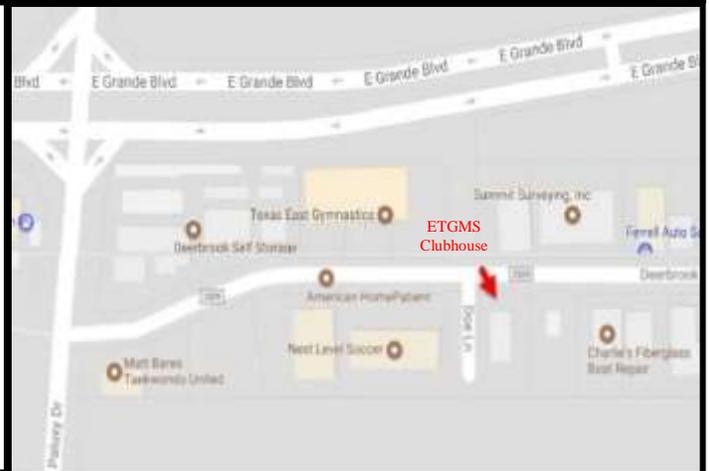
ANNUAL DUES:

Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN: First Monday of the month unless it's a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

WHERE: ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



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FIELD TRIP
CHAIRMAN: **NEEDED**

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CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES

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