

ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

VOLUME 45

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2019

Upcoming Events

JUNE 29 - 30
ARLINGTON G&MS
109 SOUTH MAIN ST
GRAPEVINE, TX

AUGUST 10 - 11
BATON ROUGE G&MS
LAMAR DIXON EXPO. CTR.
GONZALES, LA

SEPTEMBER 21
ETGMS ROCK SWAP &
COOKOUT
2015 DEERBROOK
TYLER, TX

AUGUST 17-18
ARK-LA-TEX G&MS
BOSSIER CIVIC CENTER
BOSSIER CITY, LA

OCTOBER 18-20
AUSTIN G&MS
PALMER EVENT CENTER
AUSTIN, TX

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President's Message

I don't know if everyone has noticed, but it is starting to get very hot. I want to remind all of you when you are out rock hounding or fossil hunting, please make sure you stay hydrated and dress appropriately for the weather. It is very easy to get over heated and suffer from heat exhaustion. Also, watch out for the wildlife. With all the extra rain, a lot more critters are out because their homes are flooded. We had a very good meeting this month, and I would like to thank Richard Armstrong for the presentation on topaz. I would like your input on meeting topics you would like to see. If you want to help but do not know how or where you could help, please call or email me. We are still looking for someone to take over the Scholarship Coordinator position, School Day tour coordinator and we need a full time Field Trip Chair Person. We have folks helping out right now, but we have a lot of very capable members who could help with these roles in the club. I would like to ask for volunteers to help lead some of the fieldtrips. Thank you, Kinney and Vicky Polve for the last-minute field trip to hunt for petrified wood. It saved us since the original trip fell through.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Remember, stay hydrated and be safe while out in the heat.

Fred Mahaffey



Rick Walker was awarded June's Rockhound of the Month. Rick is one of our members that always seems to be there when we need an extra hand.
Congratulations
Rick!



MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met on June 3, 2019. President Fred Mahaffey called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. He asked if there were any guests or new members in attendance. We had three visitors introduce themselves. Fred then asked for a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion, Penny Hawkins seconded, and the motion carried.

Announcements:

- Fred read a letter from South Central Federation, thanking ETGMS for our \$500 scholarship contributions. Fred also read a letter from American Federation thanking ETGMS for our financial support. Fred announced that long time member, Carolyn Davis, has passed away. Carolyn will be missed.
- Marsha Graham gave the Treasure's report.
- Lapidary sub-group – Terry Roberts reported that due to scheduling conflicts there will be no Lapidary meeting this month. Expect to have a meeting in July.
- Mineral sub-group – Charles Creekmur reported that the meeting on the June 11th would be for general identification and attendees are encouraged to bring their own specimens for identification. Charles will provide some equipment and chemicals to use in the identification process.
- Fossil sub-group – David Russ reported that last month's meeting was a discussion about the geology around Jacksboro, TX. On May 21st, David and a couple of other club members took a trip to Lost Canyon Creek Lake hunting for fossils in the Pennsylvania era deposits. The next meeting is June 18th. We will discuss the next field trip and identify the fossils found on the May 21st trip.
- Gemology sub-group – Richard Armstrong – no meeting last month. Next meeting is on the June 20th an agenda is being planned. Richard did announce he has been awarded the Certified Senior Member membership level in the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers. There is only one membership level higher. There are only three CSM's, including Richard in the entire State of Texas.
- Field trips – The Mason, Texas trip was canceled. On April 25th, nine club members went south of Henderson collecting crystal covered petrified wood – several treasures were found and everyone had lots of fun. Our thanks to Kinney and Vicky Polve for coordinating the trip. Contact Kinney Polve or Fred Mahaffey, if you are

interested in the field trip on June 15th – 23rd to the upper peninsula of Michigan for copper, sodalite, and agates and back through Missouri for druzy quartz and poker-chip calcite. At the July club meeting, Fred Mahaffey will be discussing the scheduled July field trip to Oklahoma for hourglass selenite and fossils.

- Newsletter, Kinney Polve reminded the membership, if we want an interesting newsletter, we all need to contribute. Write ups on field trips, particular specimens, poems etc. help keep our newsletter interesting.
- Allen Brown said the Tyler Coin Club Annual Show will be June 21st & 22nd, at Harvey Hall Convention Center and admission is free.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Fred stated we are in need of a School Day & Scholarship Chairperson(s). If you interested please contact Fred or any board member.
- A member asked about the plan for the parking lot. Fred said we are concentrating on inside of building. We need volunteers to help with the planning for both the inside and parking lot project efforts – interested parties can contact any board member.
- Fred said he received several “Rock Hound of the Month” nominations – thank you. The June Rock Hound of the Month is Rick Walker – Congrats Rick!!

With no more business to discuss, Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Terry Roberts made the motion, Penny Hawkins seconded, and the motion carried. A drawing followed for door prizes and refreshments were provided. A program was presented by Richard Armstrong about his trip to Mason for topaz.

Submitted by Margaret Kilanski
(Filling in for Julia Toombs)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 16 Missouri- Michigan Field Trip 15 th -23 rd	17	18 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	19	20 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	21	22
23 Missouri- Michigan Field Trip End	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	July 1 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	10	11	12	13 Lapidary/Jewelry Group 2:00 pm
14	15	16 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	17	18 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Oklahoma Field Trip 27 th - 28 th

2019 Fieldtrip Schedule

June	Michigan, Missouri	June 15 th - 23 th	Druzy Quartz, Poker Chip Calcite, Copper, Agates
July	Oklahoma	July 27 th - 28 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 unforeseen circumstances.

**A FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON IS
NEEDED. IT'S TIME TO STEP UP
AND VOLUNTEER.**

Heart Felt Sorrow

On April 24, 2019, Carolyn Davis passed away at age 77. I will surely miss her smile and positive attitude. Carolyn and Albert Davis joined ETGMS on October 4, 2010. Carolyn's passion was working with children and sewing. She had taught kindergarten for more than 30 years. Carolyn didn't have the passion for rocks like some of us, but Albert did. When Albert passed away a few years back, Carolyn stayed active in the club to help fulfill Albert's dreams for the club. She served as Secretary and School Day Chairman. She would tell me from time to time, when the Lapidary/Jewelry Group was formed or we started giving silversmithing classes or when we purchase our clubhouse, that it was always Albert's dream for that to happen. Not only had she given so much of her time, but she had donated some of Albert's equipment to the club, as well. She was a driving force in motivating and helping us reach our goals. I will surely miss her smile.

Kinney Polve



A Look into the Past

by Julia Toombs

My last article had to do with the interests of past members and some current ones. In the January 1988 newsletter, mention was made of that program being specifically, "Getting to Know You." In 2004, there were a few biographies printed of members' interests in Earth Sciences. As a way of getting to know each other better, I would like us to do the same. Below is information that I am requesting so that we can share our interests.



Name; Phone Number or e-mail

Place of birth; Other places lived

College Degree (Y/N) and what

Still working or retired

Career(s); Skills?

Are you in another field since retiring from main career?

Interested in "Rocks" your whole life?

What year did you join ETGMS?

What other Gem & Mineral Societies do you belong to?

What started your interest? At what time of your life?

What aspect of our hobby are you most interested in or involved with?

Rocks Minerals Gems Fossils All or more than one

Lapidary work & what form: faceting, capping, gem trees, etc.

(Note: I won't share your e-mail or phone number. This is simply so I can contact you if needed.)

Please get your information back to me. You can either write your own biography or provide me with the above, and I will write one up for you and allow you to approve it before it is printed in the newsletter. If you would prefer that your information not be printed, that is fine, but I'd still like to know you better, so just return your information clearly stating NO NEWSLETTER. Perhaps later I'll do a *Table of Interests*. Below is my biography of how I came to be interested in Earth Sciences.

My Dad worked for Mobil Oil for 42 years, but he wasn't an engineer. He loved to work with his hands: draw, paint, work with wood, needlepoint, cross-stitch. I have his collection of books from which he taught himself architecture. I believe that is where I got my ability to earn a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering Technology (Drafting) from the University of Houston. I graduated when draftsmen were being laid off, so was never able to use my degree past a summer job drawing printed circuit boards, which I loved. I spent a few years searching for a career and eventually got into the food business after moving to East Texas about 30 years ago. I worked for the same company for nearly 25 years.

I collected stamps because Dad had done so growing up, and Mobil Oil was a great place to get foreign stamps. We always picked up shells when we went to Galveston. He and I never discussed rocks, and I don't recall that he had any, but rocks weren't a necessary item after having kids, either. A college fund was started as soon as my sister and I were born. We did find an arrowhead in a creek once. So, I guess I developed this interest on my own. I wish I had taken Geology instead of Geography classes in college as electives.

At an early age, I was given an amethyst geode (*Top right*). Some years later I went to a Houston Gem & Mineral Show and bought an agate slice (*At right*) that looked like a mountain sticking up through the clouds. It gave me a sense of peace. It wasn't until I retired that I became a true collector. I picked up rocks when Dad and I went on vacations as cheap souvenirs. They were always marked with when and where I found them. I now *plan* to bring home a rock from every vacation since he passed away. I have been fascinated by the stories of fossil finds my entire adult life. So, I now have shells, rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, and less money. I have gone on some field trips, too. My artistic talents are cross-stitching and rock critters.

Hopefully, this will give you an idea of what I am looking for. You don't have to have a college degree. That is simply a part of my life. Let me tell your story.

My email address is jltoombs@suddenlink.net.

There's a lot of work that goes into making this month's newsletter great. Thanks to the contributions from Margaret Kilanski, Fred Mahaffey, Terry Roberts & Julia Toombs. There are also volunteers that are involved in the background. If it wasn't Cindy Simmons, a good friend of mine, and Julia Toombs, volunteering their time to proofread the newsletter each month and weed out all my mistakes, it would not be as good. I want to thank all of you for your contributions.



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First Quartz Cleaning

By Margaret Kilanski

I want to start off by saying I'm not an author by any measure, I just want to share an experience I had recently in hopes it might encourage someone else to give it a try too. Since joining East Texas Gem & Mineral Society and with the expertise of Kinney & Vicky Polve and Terry Roberts, I've been blessed to try several new rock-related activities. I've done some silversmithing, cabbing and gem tree making. I have enjoyed each of these and appreciate my teachers for sharing their gifts, talents and patience with me.

My latest project was cleaning a large quartz cluster using Oxalic Acid. The adventure started with a visit to Keith Harmon's rock yard sale where I purchased a 20+ pounds quartz cluster. I think it originally came from Arkansas. The cluster was heavily covered with iron oxide (rust). OK, now what to do with it? I thought about just leaving it as is, rust and all. I decided to inspect it closer to see what crystals were peeking out. I gave it a quick bath with Dawn dish soap, a gentle scrub brush and lots of water (*see photo at right.*). After the bath, I could see there were a variety of large and small points in both clear and milk quartz. I talked to some folks and visited several internet sites and You-Tube videos to determine the best way to clean off the iron oxide material, so the crystals would stand out.

Oxalic Acid bath was a consistent recommendation for removing heavy iron oxide material from quartz. Oxalic Acid should not be used on some materials such as fluorite or calcite, as it will 'eat' these minerals. I was very nervous to use any 'ACID', because safety is important to me.

In my research, I had read/saw where heating the Oxalic Acid bath would speed up the process. I decided against doing this due to the complication of setting up and maintaining a heating source for the bath, and I had a good resource (Kinney Polve) who said if I used a dark-colored bucket, it would absorb heat from the sun and the bath would take a little longer but should work just fine.

I also learned that in the cleaning process, it was common to have some crystals fall off the cluster, because they were being held in place by the iron oxide material. To remove that material, would mean the crystal would have nothing to keep it attached. Due to the extent of the material on my piece, I was concerned about the amount of loss, but I decided to go forward and take this as a learning experience regardless of the loss.

I ordered a bag of Oxalic Acid from the internet. I bought a dark-colored, strong plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid from Lowe's. I already had heavy-duty rubber gloves (not the kitchen sink kind), rubber boots, eye protection and baking soda. I also needed an area with good ventilation, running water and solid ground. My back patio became the staging area. Use caution when working with any acid material – know the safety measures ahead of time and BE PREPARED for accidents.

The day the Oxalic Acid arrived in the mail, I gathered all the other needed tools, put on my boots, safety glasses, rubber gloves, old clothes and headed out to the back patio – ready to go (*see photo at right*). I put the bucket in a location on the back patio where it would not need to be moved, out of the weather, would get lots of sunshine (acid bath works best when kept warm) and there was running water available. I put the crystal cluster into the empty bucket and added plain water one gallon at a time to determine how much acid/water mix I would need to cover the cluster; I would need two gallons of mix. I removed the cluster from the bucket of water



and added one cup of acid to the bucket, gently stirred the water and acid until the acid was dissolved – a broom handle works well for this. Important safety note here – always add acid to water not water to acid, so you don't splash any acid water on you. If you do get splashed, flushing with lots of running water and baking soda will neutralize the acid. Seek medical help if you get any acid in your eyes, nose, mouth etc.

Now the acid bath is ready for the cluster. I gently placed the cluster back into the bucket, this is a no splash zone, put the lid on the bucket – sealing about 90% of the lid. You need to leave a little air circulation in case of any gas buildup. Another safety note – make sure that your rubber gloves are long enough for you to lift the cluster in and out of the bath without having any of the acid bath running into your gloves. The cluster is in the acid bath, I washed off my boots, gloves, measuring cup, broom handle – Ok you get the idea.

After one week, I put on my rubber gloves and carefully opened the lid to take a peek – I saw some dissolving of the iron oxide material – still lots to go – some crystals are starting to show up. The next week the weather turned cold – into the 40s and below. The colder weather was forecast for the next several weeks. The next week when I peeked into the bucket, little to no progress had been made. I got discouraged and decided to take the cluster out of the bath and see if I could scrub more of the iron oxide material off. After removing the cluster from the acid bath, I put it on the grass and hosed it down well with clean water and then put it in into another bucket of clean water and a little Dawn to remove some oily substance that now covered the cluster. Not sure where the oily stuff came from, it cleaned away easily with the Dawn.

The next day I took the cluster out and rinsed it off. At this point, after careful inspection, I could see where several crystals had been uncovered after the iron oxide material was removed, I was thrilled. I could also see where a few crystals had come off the cluster – win some, lose some. There was still a lot of rust on the cluster (*pictured at right*).

I expected it would be a month or so before the weather would warm up enough to try the acid bath again. I had read that the acid bath could be stored, so I put the lid on the bucket and stored the bucket out of the way behind the shed.

Some time life gets in the way of what we want to do – which is what happened to me, so I didn't get back to the acid bath for over two months. By then the weather started to warm up – staying above 55 degrees during the day. I put on my rubber gloves and moved the bucket of acid wash back to the back patio and opened it up, I was very surprised to see that the acid wash was now a bright yellow, neon green color (*pictured to the right*). Ok, this was something I had not encountered in my earlier research, back to the internet to check this out – turns out that this discoloration can happen if there is too much loose clay and iron oxide material on the stones when they first go into the acid bath – lesson learned – clean, clean, clean the stone before putting them into acid bath. Oh, and by the way, my research said not to use the discolored acid bath, so now I needed to dispose of the discolored acid bath. Deep breath Margaret – it's just another learning opportunity.

The acid wash needs to be neutralized before it can be disposed of – you can neutralize the acid bath by carefully adding small amounts of baking soda to the bath.



When the soda makes contact with the acid there is a chemical reaction similar to the baking soda volcano some of us did in grade school science class. While the bubbling and churning of this process can be fun to watch, remember it's an active chemical reaction and could hurt you if it gets on your skin or you inhale fumes. The amount of baking soda needed will depend on the amount of and how "hot" the acid bath was (*pictured at the right*). You'll need to determine what is proper disposal of the neutralized bath. At this point, I should also state that I have had my safety gear on the whole time I have been working around this acid bath.

Now I've disposed of the neutralized bath and cleaned out the bucket with soap and water. I refilled it with two gallons of clean water and added two cups of Oxalic Acid this time. After the first batch, I learned that I should have used one cup of acid to a gallon of water. In goes the cluster, on goes the lid, I clean up my tools, and I wait.

A week later, I peek into the bucket, crystals are looking cleaner and brighter, I'm getting excited now. A few days, later I peek again and decide to test some of the crystals to see if any are loose. I put on my safety gear, take the cluster from the acid bath, rinse it off, soak it in a soap and water solution overnight, and the next day dry it off for inspection.

The inspection reveals that a few more individual crystals are loose. I didn't want these crystals to fall off the cluster, so I decided the acid wash process was done. I'm thrilled with the end result (*pictured at the right*).

I learned a lot during this adventure. I know the next time it will be easier and safety will always be upfront in my mind. I learned from my mistakes, and I'm looking forward to my next adventure.

These are two sites I used in my research:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Clean-Quartz-Crystals>

<https://www.mindat.org/article.php/403/Cleaning+Quartz>



May Petrified Wood Field Trip Update

By Kinney Polve

Sometimes things don't go as planned, and that was the case for the May field trip. The Mason Topaz field trip had to be cancelled when none of the motels would return Fred Mahaffey's phone calls regarding lodging. Knowing that everyone loves field trips, we decided it was time for a change of venue. We scheduled a last-minute petrified wood hunt. There were nine members that



attended, and everyone seemed to find some nice pieces. There were more larger specimens found on the field trip compared to last year's trip. Left photo is a view of the members getting ready leave the collecting area. The right photo is of Fred Mahaffey cleaning up some of his finds.



Spending Time in the Workshop

I was in the mood to cut some of the smaller rocks that I collected on the Stillwell Ranch back in April and thought the members of the club would like to see some pictures of the better slabs that I cut. They are grouped together so that each group represents one rock/nodule (*pictured at the right*). I also cut a couple of slabs off one of my petrified wood samples that I collected, as well as some pictures of one piece that I'm assuming is a limb cast since it appears to be completely replaced by agate. I haven't cut any slabs off that one yet, so it isn't represented in the group photo. I probably should have taken the pictures indoors since some of the pictures are washed out by the light or show reflections after I doused them with water to bring out the colors. I hope you can see most of the features anyway.

This group of pictures turned out a little better without much reflection to distract you. I included a couple of quarters on the board to give you an idea of

the size of the rock/nodule that I cut. To my pleasant surprise, there is an interesting assortment of agates on the ranch.

The first two photos (*right center and bottom*) show some colorful agates and the photo at the left show slabs from one of the petrified woods that I collected on the Stillwell Ranch.



Continued on Page 10.

This photo to the right shows the limb cast that I mentioned earlier. This agate was not included in the first picture showing all the slabs that I cut together. I decided to add this last piece of wood at the last minute to show you its quality as an agate specimen. I have not cut this one yet and I'm not sure that I will.



In the photo to the left, the cabs are all red and black plume agates from the Walker Ranch. Since we cannot collect rocks on this ranch anymore, I will have to try and find a new source for these agates. They are all free-form cabs to minimize the loss of material from the agate while grinding and polishing the cabochon.

These cabs are banded agates from an unknown source. I wish I had a name for each of them, but I've had this material so long that I cannot remember if they have a specific name.

To the right are some Laguna Agates from some rough material that I bought from a dealer at one of the Dallas-Fort Worth shows several years back. They are small, but are pretty and hard enough to take a good polish. What I like about these cabs is that a couple of them exhibit a "shadow" phenomenon where a shadow moves across the bands when the cab is tilted back and forth under a strong light.



The group to the left consists of two Tiger Iron cabs and a Fantasy Jasper from Mexico and a Flower Garden Agate from West Texas. I believe I bought the Tiger Iron rough from a "tail-gate" dealer at a show in Deming, NM. The rough has some interesting patterns in it that are not easily visible in the photo.

The cabs to the right were purchased from a dealer as Mexican Crazy Lace Agate. However, I've seen pictures of agates similar to the two upper cabs that were called Cactus Lace Agate from a

rock shop in El Paso. I have a feeling that they are just a variety of Crazy Lace and come from the same or a nearby deposit as the Crazy Lace Agate. Either way, I like them too. The bottom cab is a typical Crazy Lace Agate.



Geva bought a pound of Tiffany Stone rough from a rock shop we visited in Delta, UT. I cut the largest piece into six slabs and two heels. The polished free-form cab on the left has several small cracks in it, but I stabilized it with some very thin superglue so it would hold together during the cabbing process. The cab on the right is one of the heels which has a black colored mineral in it that I can't identify. Because the surface was so uneven, I was not able to completely dome the top of the cab without making it too thin to hold together. However, it still makes an interesting cab. I was told at the rock shop that the purple material is Bertrandite which is a beryllium silicate and the white material is Opalite.

Terry Roberts



Tyler Mini Makers Faire

Here are a few photos that should had made last month's issue, but I couldn't locate my camera. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.



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.

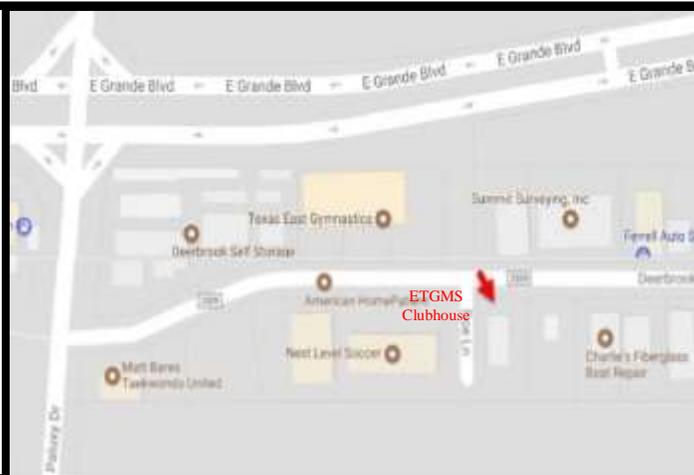
ANNUAL DUES:

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



PRESIDENT:
903-978-0268

Fred Mahaffey
frederickmahaffey@gmail.com

WEBMASTER:
971-219-3362

Margaret Kilanski
mlkilanski@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT:
903-881-5108

Terry Roberts
terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

EDITOR:
903-646-3189

Kinney Polve
rocknrosenewsletter@gmail.com

TREASURER:
903-312-4800

Marcia Graham
quilteddy@gmail.com

SHOW SCHOOL DAY
CHAIRPERSON: **NEEDED**

SECRETARY:
903-882-5809

Julia Toombs
jltoombs@suddenlink.net

FIELD TRIP
CHAIRMAN:

NEEDED

CHAIRMAN SHOW:
903-795-3860

Keith Harmon
keithharmon19@yahoo.com

CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
P. O. BOX 132532
Tyler, TX 75713-2532