

# ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

VOLUME 45

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 5

MAY 2019

## Upcoming Events

**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 6 - 9**  
**INTL. EXPO OF AGATES**  
**NORRIS CONFER. CTR.**  
**AUSTIN, TX**

**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**

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## President's Message

Hello Everyone!

I hope you have all been enjoying this spring weather. If you missed the last meeting, we talked about the different sub-groups and the activities they have been working on. I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Maker's Faire a success last month. We received our asbestos report and the building is clear, so we are now planning a work day to start on the rest of the clubhouse projects. We

can use everyone's help, and it will definitely help move things along much smoother. I hope to see you all in June at the next meeting.

Fred Mahaffey



## Message from the Editor

As editor, I receive a number of newsletters from other area clubs. Recently, in *The Rock Prattle*, David Farhie mentioned that there will not be a Jasper show this year. The reason given was lack of volunteers. Volunteering is a subject that I write and speak about regularly. I do this so we don't end up in this type of situation. We all appreciate those of you that are there filling the needs of the club. What happens when those members aren't available? We had somewhat of a shortage of volunteers for the early part of the Tyler Mini Makers Faire, but the few of us were able to pick up the slack. We had to limit our booth to only making rock critters. We have over 150 members; so we shouldn't have been shorthanded. Those members that aren't making the time available to volunteer, please get more involved. As Fred Mahaffey mentioned in his message, we will soon plan a workday to do some remodeling on the clubhouse. This will benefit all our members; so let's all get involved.

As most of you may have noticed, the latest issue of the American Federation of Mineral Societies and The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies newsletters were emailed to our member this month. It is a good idea to read the information in these newsletters. As a member of ETGMS, you are members of these societies and should stay up to date on what's happening.

I want to thank Lynn Metcalf and Julia Toombs for their contribution to this month's newsletter. I'm sure our members will enjoy them. Please take some time to send in submissions for next month's issue.

Kinney Polve

## MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met on May 6, 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 one new member introduce herself. Fred then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Cecil Waterhouse made the motion; Penny Hawkins seconded; and the motion carried.

### Announcements:

- Cecil – no Gemology meeting this month.
- Pete Keiser – Jack Morris of the Last Chance Mine in Colorado is looking for summer help with mine tours. It is a silver mine with amethyst and rhyolite showing in the walls at the time Pete was there just after purchase a few years ago. It is at 10,500 feet.
- Lapidary sub-group – Kinney Polve reported the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> will be gem trees which was “rained out” in April.
- Mineral sub-group – Charles Creekmur reported the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> would be about garnets.
- Fossil sub-group – David Russ reported that last month’s meeting was a discussion about the impact crater on the Yucatan Peninsula and the western interior seaway in Texas. The next meeting is the 21<sup>st</sup>. A member asked about the field trip to Jacksboro on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Dave said he is looking into it with the intention of coming back to the Brazos River. Dave has also loaned to the club a topographical map of the United States.
- Field trips – The 25<sup>th</sup>, or 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, are the dates to Mason, Texas for topaz. Fredericksburg has hotels or someone mentioned a friend with a townhouse we could rent. Kinney mentioned the June 15<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> field trip to the upper peninsula of Michigan for copper, sodalite, and agates and back through Missouri for druzy quartz and poker-chip calcite. A metal detector would be useful in locating copper.
- Ed Nolen – Field trip to Magnet Cove, Arkansas in August. It is all private land so get permission to be on land. There is wavellite, etc.; iron pyrite in gravel in a 3-4-foot creek; in the woods; and there are snakes. It is not a place for kids. There is a Motel 8 at the edge of the Cove if you want to spend some nights. Pete recommended a sluice box.

### Old business:

- Asbestos inspection has been done, so we can proceed with getting a permit for the remaining walls, electrical, A/C ducts, and line up a work day.
- Makers Faire went well.
- Rock Hound of the Month – Fred had one nomination sent to him and it was Fred; so Fred is it.
- Rock Swap – We think we had a low turnout, because it was Easter weekend. There were only six tables set up. There will be another one in the Fall. Kinney recommended having one only once a year.

### New Business: There was none.

With no more business to discuss, Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Kinney made the motion, Lynn Metcalf seconded, and the motion carried. Following drawing of the door prize tickets and refreshments, the program was presented by Fred about a field trip to Arkansas for quartz and calcite.

Submitted by  
Julia Toombs, Secretary



**Don't forget to send in  
your nomination for June's  
“Rockhound of the  
Month.”**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 12	13	14 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Mason, TX Field Trip
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1
2	3 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	4	5	6	7	8 Lapidary/Jewelry Group 2:00 pm
9	10	11 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	12	13	14	15 Start Michigan – Missouri Field Trip
16	17	18 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	19	20 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	21	22

### 2019 Fieldtrip Schedule

May	Mason, Texas	May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Topaz, Indian Artifacts
June	Michigan, Missouri	June 15 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Druzy Quartz, Poker Chip Calcite, Copper, Agates
July	Oklahoma	July 27 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup>	Hourglass Selenite, Fossils
August	Magnet Cove, Arkansas		Pyrite
September	Rock Swap - Clubhouse	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Rock Swap, Cook Out
September	Duncanville, Texas	September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Septarian, Fossils
October	Mt. Ida, Arkansas	October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>	Quartz Crystals
November	TBD		
December	Christmas Party	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	

Note: Schedule is subject to change due unforeseen circumstances.

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

### LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP

Eleven members attended the May meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group at the ETGMS clubhouse. Although the weather forecast promised continued rain during the meeting, it did not deter these members from attending the meeting to learn how to make Gem Trees. Kinney and Vicky Polve taught the class and furnished all the materials needed to make the trees. Despite the lively conversations and friendly jests, most of the members were able to complete their trees by the end of the meeting. Those that did not complete their trees took the gems they needed to complete the trees with them to finish the work later. Kinney took several pictures of the completed Gem Trees to post in the next Club Newsletter. As luck would have it, it started to rain lightly just as the members left the clubhouse.

The next meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group will be on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2:00 pm. There are no topics for discussion or classes scheduled at this time, so please let Kinney and me know what you as a group would like to talk about at the next meeting. Remember this Group was organized to help the ETGMS members learn more about the lapidary and jewelry craft and to help its members solve any problems they encounter while trying to complete a project. To further enhance everyone's education, please be sure to bring any projects that you have completed or are working on to future meetings so you can explain to the members how you did the work or whether you encountered problems that someone at the meeting could help you with. By working together, we can enhance the learning experience for all members.



**Arlington Gem and Mineral Club**  
1408 Gibbins Rd., Arlington, TX 76011  
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**Grapevine Convention Center**  
1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051



\$6 General Admission  
\$5 Seniors (60+) \$5 Children  
Free for Scouts in Uniform  
or Military ID  
Concessions Available



## A Look into the Past

by Julia Toombs

As I have been reading minutes and newsletters, some members have really stood out due to their education and careers. I would like to highlight some here. If you feel left out, I apologize, because I don't have a list of everyone's interests.

- Ed and Pat Beene have rocks from Great Britain, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and a long list of minerals from a country one-fifth the size of Texas.
- Charles Burshears is an oil and gas geologist.
- Don Campbell is a geologist and collects micro-specimens and trilobites. He was also president of the club for *many* years.
- Earl and Aileen Clark — Aileen painted on picture rocks, and Earl made clock faces using slabs.
- Charles Creekmur studied geology at the Texas College of Mines (now University of Texas at El Paso) and focused on mineral chemistry and optical mineralogy. In graduate school at Stephen F. Austin, his work was in x-ray diffraction analysis, and he taught college level mineralogy for a few years. Charles does mineral identification, is a judge, and a trainer of judges.
- R.D. Deason owned one of the largest and most valuable private gem and mineral collections in East Texas; was an authority on identifying stones, and an expert in lapidary arts. He operated a rock shop in Jacksonville.
- Gene Goar is a petroleum chemist. He has a large collection of fossils, Indian artifacts, and arrowheads.
- Eddie Harmon is son to Keith. He is a geologist and deals in fossils.
- Keith and Charlotte Harmon were heavily involved in the show from the first one in 1997 until her death. Keith is an auctioneer extraordinaire; dealer of raw rocks, gems, minerals, and equipment.
- Keith and Toni Harmon are heavily involved in the shows: dealing in raw rocks, gems, minerals, and equipment; and are active at the national level.
- Dr. Susann Heidrich received a bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin and PhD's from Sussex College in England in Astronomy, Exobiology, and Paleontology. She did undergraduate work in art, science, ancient history, and educational psychology. She has won multiple awards and trophies from AFMS and SCFMS. In 1980, she took over as editor (for *many* years) of the newsletter and suggested it have a name. Rock 'n' Rose won.
- Bill and April Holbert made rock pictures, and Bill was president of the club for *many* years.
- Bill Marostica did Faceting for 10 years and became a rock hound backwards. He bought a faceting machine before a tumbler.
- Terry Roberts has a PhD in Oceanography and was a teacher in Galveston. Now he is a teacher of lapidary arts.
- V.H. Senko was a master cabochon maker of tear drops, some of which are in the Smithsonian.
- Tom Shelby is a geologist. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas and was a senior staff geologist with Exxon at retirement. He did exploration of gas reserves.
- Delbert and Joyce Speed donated the large display case we use at the show, donated books to our library, and have been involved with AFMS and SCFMS for *many* years.
- You don't have to have a college degree to be a valuable member of the club. We all have an artistic talent just waiting to be discovered. You may even do unusual art that could be used at the shows. Maybe you will make a major discovery one day on a field trip like others before you. Maybe you will find an unnamed dinosaur or insect. Contribute in whatever way you can and have fun doing it.

### TAKE ITS MEASURE:

#### Measuring Devices & the Importance of Accuracy for the Rockhound, Jeweler and Gemologist

By Lynn Metcalf, G.G., GIA

A rockhound trudging through the scrub of our great American deserts spots a likely specimen sitting under some wild sage early on a summer's day. What does our 'hound do next?

*Continued on Page 6.*

New ‘hounds often bend and grab the prize intent on adding it to their blossoming collection.

Experienced rockhounds are more cautious. First, they look at the specimen *in situ* (in place) and examine what may be around or near to it. Is it partially buried? Is it tangled in roots? Does it have a close relationship with a “critter” (snake, scorpion, centipede, some other biting insect, or something rabid)? Is that *really* wild sage growing over it? Or is it cohabitating with a particularly nasty brand of cactus?

The point is, never expect something to be harmless until you have studied the area carefully. Who knows, you may be extremely allergic to something near the specimen. Even if you are a hardy soul with rhinoceros hide and a cast-iron stomach...wear thick protective gloves and strong walking boots. Once...ONCE, a *friend* didn't wear gloves and pulled a partly buried specimen from under a bush...and discovered the bush supported a Texas-sized nest of fire ants...

That said, once you have collected your rock and rubbed/washed excess dirt off your find, you will want to measure and weigh it. Weighing devices are outside the purview of this article. Measuring, however, very much is the point of this article.

So, I have included some examples of measuring devices. There are two basic categories of measuring devices:

Analog: Meaning the item is manually operated. No batteries.

Electronic: These devices depend on an electrical source for their operation: batteries, wall-plug- in, a source of ‘juice’.

Then there is a *combination* of the two: where a manual OR a digital device is used to secure the initial data for input to another device for a total computed outcome. An example would be a gem weight computer (not discussed, but here is a stellar photo of one to the right.)

Analog device examples include rulers, calipers, and the A.D. Leverage Gauge. Electronic device examples are the same thing but require an energy source. There are many names and designs but for our purposes the most obvious are shown. For gemologists, lapidary denizens and jewelers, there are other devices used in addition to those named above requiring an experienced hand but are discussed elsewhere. Check out your Society's specialty sub-groups in lapidary, gemology, and jewelry making for further in-depth knowledge and how-to information.

Before attempting to use a device, a simple advisory:

***Read Device Activation Carefully and Thoroughly. (REDACT)*** This is an acronym...not a word. Read the instructions and read them again. Get the operational aspects of the device clear and correct the *first* time.

Two things to remember when using all measuring processes:

**(1) Measure twice and (2) Write the measurement down.** Be sure to note the measurement *type* used (inches, centimeters, millimeters, intervals, etc.) By the way, an ‘interval’ is 0.1mm or 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a millimeter. Cool interval ruler photo shown.

The last and most important point for electronic measuring device users:

***Always ZERO-OUT the last measurement you made on the device before measuring the same piece again or another stone.***

“Dude! This specimen you sent looks more like five millimeters than five centimeters”...it happens.



*Above is an analog caliper. Below is Richard Armstrong demonstrating it's use at a Gemology group meeting*

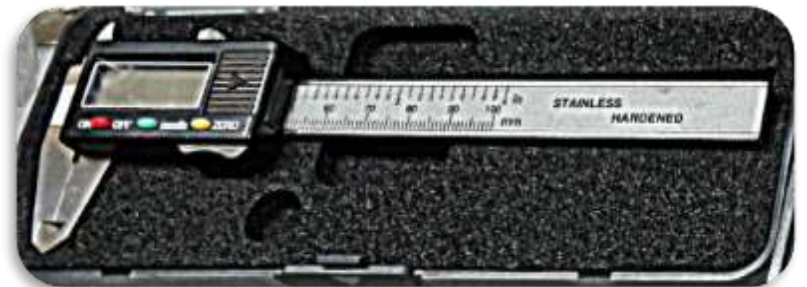




Ok, one more (heartfelt) recommendation. When electronic devices are not in use *always* (means: **ALWAYS!**)...**remove the batteries**. It's just common sense. The first time a battery "gunk" leak shorts *out* a favorite (read: expensive) device, your memory will lock that *in*.



Above – Lumagny magnifier with ruler.  
 Left – Analog leveridge gauge. Middle –  
 Digital leveridge gauge. Below –  
 Digital caliper.



## Casting with Silver

By Kinney Polve

There are many different ways to cast with silver. A couple of the simplest ways are broom straw casting and bean casting. These are a couple of examples. The one on the left is a bean cast, and the one on the right was made with broom straw. I have plans to schedule a class in the near future, for those members that may be interested.



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.**

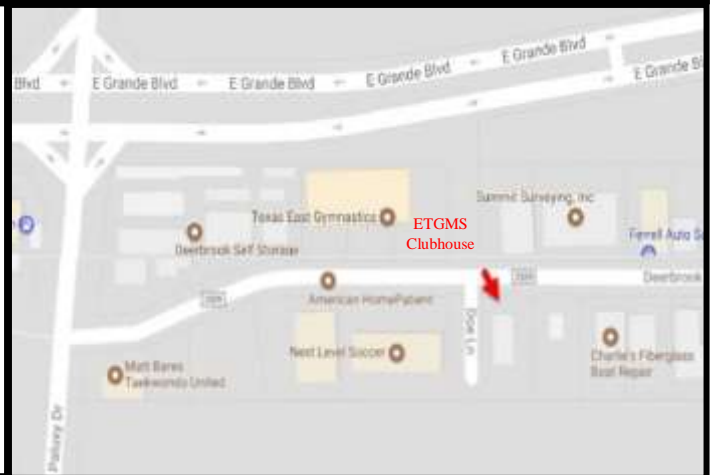
#### ANNUAL DUES:

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**

CHAIRMAN SHOW: Keith Harmon  
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