

# ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2019

## Upcoming Events

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

**NOVEMBER 2-3**  
**MIDLAND G&MS**  
**BUSH CONVENTION CTR.**  
**MIDLAND, TX**

**NOVEMBER 8-10**  
**HOUSTON G&MS**  
**HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER**  
**HUMBLE, TX**

**NOVEMBER 23-24**  
**DALLAS G&MS**  
**MESQUITE RODEO CTR.**  
**MESQUITE, TX**

**DECEMBER 14-15**  
**DERIDDER G&MS**  
**276 H.M. STEVENS BLVD.**  
**LEEVI, LA**

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## President's Message

I want to thank everyone who helped at the last meeting with donations for the auction. We had a good turnout for the critter workshop on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who showed up and helped work on critters and getting the show stuff organized. We are working on getting ready for the show in January. Everyone, who wants to set up a display case, needs to be at the next meeting to start signing up. It is a first come first serve basis and I have already had several members ask about setting up displays. We will talk more about it at the meeting. Last year, you all did an excellent job of presentation, and I heard a lot of very positive comments from visitors as they were admiring your displays. I want to welcome all of our new members to ETGMS and encourage you to get involved in some of our club activities. Don't be shy about talking with the other club members. You will find they have a lot to offer, and the best way to get to know everyone is to participate in club activities. One of the things I want us to work on is communication. I really feel like only a small handful of you are speaking up and voicing what you would like to see as far as the meeting programs and presentations. The fact is, we all learn better by teaching or assisting someone else. Maybe you would like to learn more about a specific mineral or fossil. Maybe it would be fun to work with someone knowledgeable on the topic to present a short program. Think about it, and let me know. Meeting presentations cannot be too lengthy or too in depth, because you will usually lose your listeners. Our individual groups are better suited for more in-depth studies. The next meeting is the last regular meeting before the Christmas Party in December. We will talk briefly about it, so the new members will know what to expect. We always have fun and good refreshments. I believe we have so many talented people that the sky is the limit on what we can accomplish. However, we all have to make time in our busy lives to make things happen. Do the things you find fun, help out in a few ways that maybe you are not super excited about, and you may discover that you enjoy doing all of it.

Fred Mahaffey



## MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its monthly meeting on October 7, 2019 at 6:45 pm. President Fred Mahaffey asked that the guests or new members introduce themselves. Five new members did so. Fred then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Rick Walker made the motion, Jim Kitchen seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Marcia Graham gave her report.

### Announcements:

- Arts and Crafts Fair associated with the Rose Festival at Bergfeld Park, October 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up for at least one two-hour shift.
- Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> is the critter workshop in place of the usual Lapidary sub-group meeting. The hours are 9:00-4:00 and lunch will be provided.
- Mineral sub-group – Fred spoke for Charles - October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The program will be a video on a tourmaline mine in Brazil.
- Fossil sub-group – Rick Walker spoke for David Russ – October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Gemology sub-group – Lynn Metcalf spoke for Richard Armstrong – October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. It will be Part 2 of the Gem ID class.

- Field trips – Fred gave a short report on the September trip to the Dallas area for septarian nodules. Some large nodules will be at the annual show. An ammonite was found within one. We will have our own trip to Mt. Ida for crystals on October 26<sup>th</sup>. It is separate from the championship dig on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact Fred if you are interested.

**Old business:** There was none.

**New business:** There was none.

With no more business to discuss, Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Kinney Polve made the motion, Jerry Sudderth seconded, and the motion carried. Without further ado, the program of a live auction got under way. It is our second largest fund raiser. Keith Harmon was our auctioneer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2019 at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by  
Julia Toombs, Secretary



Election of new club officers is coming up in December. I know that we currently have some great people filling these positions, but it's time to give some of them a break. I also know that we have a lot of members with the capabilities to take over for them. Organizations like ours function best when we have new leadership and fresh ideas from time to time. It's time to step out of your comfort zone and volunteer for a leadership role!

The January Show is almost upon us. Most of our members are familiar with what it takes to have a successful show. Last year we had some empty slots on our sign-up sheets, which created a few problems. We try hard to have a well-organized show, being this is our largest yearly fundraiser. Sign-up sheets will be available at the November meeting, so plan to attend and sign-up early. I can't overstate the importance of volunteering.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October</b> 13	14	15 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	16	17 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	18	19 Rose Festival Arts and Crafts Fair
20 Rose Festival Arts and Crafts Fair	21	22	23	24	25	26 Mt. Ida, AR Field Trip
27 Mt. Ida, AR Field Trip	28	29	30	31	<b>November</b> 1	2
3	4 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	5	6	7	8	9 No Lapidary Group Meeting Scheduled
10	11	12 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	20	21 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	22	23

**2019 Fieldtrip Schedule**

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>	Party & Gift Exchange

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

**September Field Trip**

By Kinney Polve

The collecting location for our September trip was Grand Prairie, Texas. We met at the clubhouse and left out about 7:15 am, Saturday morning. There were five of us from ETGMS, along with two others from the Dallas club, that met us at the location. All of us did exceptionally well and plenty of specimens were found in a very short time. Fred Mahaffey was our go to hammer man, and it didn't take long for that sledgehammer to wear him out. On this trip, we brought home large beautiful Septarian Nodules. Photos courtesy of Vicky Polve.



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Here's a couple more photos. Below is one of the larger nodules we found. Bottom right – from left to right is Fred Mahaffey, Ed Grounds, Kinney Polve, and Marcia Graham, all admiring how nice this one looks.



Ronny Jerger passed away September 11<sup>th</sup>, after a lengthy illness. Many of our members may not have known Ronny, but he had been a member for many years. He always tried to stay involved as much as his health problems would allow, whether it was repairing club equipment or making sure the clubhouse was wired properly. He will be missed.



### 32<sup>nd</sup> World Championship Crystal Dig

Melissa Weenink took first place in cluster division, and Zachary Weenink took third in cluster division and fourth in point division. Together, they won the "Club with the Highest Score Award" for the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society. Outstanding!

## A Look into the Past

by Julia Toombs

In February 1999, Bill Holbert wrote an article for the newsletter entitled “Field Trip Memories.” He had found an old journal and photographs that documented a trip he and Charles Creekmur took to the area of Spring Creek near Denton, Texas.

The creek cuts through a black and tan marl that covers the Duck Creek formation, associated with the Weno, Pecan Gap, and Kiamachi. The marl consists of reconstructed material that is the result of decomposition of the upper lime beds. It was distributed as a fluvial deposit over the lime rock. Ammonites found there are: *Drakeoceras wintoni*, *Drakeoceras drakei*, *Eopachydiscus marcianus*, *Eopachydiscus laevicanaliculatum*, *Mortoniceras*, *Pervinquierin trinodosa*, and *Schloenbachia leonensis*, among others. I don’t know what book Bill used, but I could not find some of the names that he listed but did find pictures of those that specifically said Duck Creek formation (Lower Cretaceous) in Charles E. Finsley’s book *A Field Guide to Fossils of Texas*, 1999. Those are what are listed above.

Very small photos were included with the article. When I questioned Charles about the trip, he remembered it and the photo of him carrying the ammonite. He said it weighed about one hundred pounds. I was curious if the piece had gone home with either of them. He said that he had carried it about half a mile when Bill took the picture. Charles sold it to a friend this summer for \$50. Above is a photo of a smaller version of the *Pervinquierin trinodosa* that he found. It is about five inches across.

I included this story because Charles is the focus of this month’s biography. Just because he is a charter member of our club doesn’t make him an old fossil. It is written by Charles with just a little editing.

“My name is Charles Creekmur. I was born in 1938 in Deport, Lamar County, Texas. When I was seven, my grandmother came from California to visit. She brought me a little slab of petrified wood (which I still have) and a box of small specimens mounted in a box from the curio shop at the Petrified Forest. This set me on a lifetime of mineral collecting. By the age of nine, I had read everything that was available on the subject in the small town of Overton. My mother took me to Dallas to a big bookstore where I bought a real mineralogy textbook. I collected and entered many area shows with competition cases in a variety of classes.

“My college years took me to El Paso to major in geology at what was then Texas Western College, the former Texas College of Mines, and now University of Texas at El Paso. After a geology major and chemistry minor and a little graduate work in x-ray diffraction, I returned to the family retail grocery business in Overton. I taught mineralogy at a couple of community colleges in the area for several years. Then I began following the rock and mineral show circuit for 20 years.

“During those college years, I collected extensively in New Mexico, southern Arizona, and west Texas. I worked for several El Paso mineral import/dealers, mostly doing identification work on the specimens they were bringing up from Mexico. I always took my pay in minerals instead of money and added greatly to my collection during that time. I have done a little lapidary work and although fossils are not my first love, I have 14 semester hours of Invertebrate Paleontology behind me and have a few fossils in my collection which is heavy into old classics and unusual locations.

“I am a charter member and past president of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society that was founded in 1955. I organized Judges Training seminars for the South-Central Federation to train new mineral judges and served as chairman of the Scholarship Foundation. Although I’ve passed the 80-year mark, I’m still able to go out and do a little collecting. Recently, I was able to hit the pegmatites on Fly Gap Road in Mason County.”

Thank you, Charles. Tune in next month for another exciting episode of “A Look into the Past” and another biography. Let’s be friends; not just acquaintances.



### Rock Swap Update

September 21<sup>st</sup>, we held our Rock Swap at the clubhouse. It just happened to be the first day of the East Texas State Fair, so there was little public participation. We did have a better turnout among club members for this event. Regardless of the turnout, we all enjoyed ourselves. Photos are courtesy of Margaret Kilanski. Kinney Polve



### Shop Time

Terry Roberts has been busy, as usual, cutting ordinary looking rocks into colorful slabs, and making beautiful cabochons. He also had some time to wire-wrap a couple of beautiful cabs. As if that wasn't enough, he cut open a geode for Julia Toombs, that she picked up at Keith's sale.



I managed to spend quite a few hours in my workshop the past month. I've been busy sawing rocks and making knife handles. It's wonderful when I make time to enjoy my hobby. It's strange that we get so caught up in life that we sometimes forget to enjoy it. I have always gained a great amount of satisfaction from cutting and polishing rocks. Here's a couple I've finished up. The one to the right is a Chunky Monkey Cleaver with a Cherry Creek Jasper handle. The other is a Texas Hold'em with a Spiderweb Jasper handle. I guess Terry and I are the only ones enjoying our shop time. Maybe you're just too busy to share what's going on with the rest of the members. Take a few minutes to send in a photo of what's happening in your workshop. I bet the members will enjoy seeing what you are up to.

Kinney Polve



Don't forget the Rose Festival Arts & Crafts Fair at Bergfeld Park is this Saturday and Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. ETGMS will have a booth set up. We're raising more money for more equipment in the lapidary workshop. Come by and look, buy, or just tell the members what a great job they're doing.

### Note from the Editor

I don't have to be a psychic to know that there are many more members that could have made their contribution to the newsletter. I need more club related submissions. Here's where you can get involved and help out. I need poems, especially from one of our **junior** members. I need a drawn feature (**Jesus Contrevas**). I need an article on What it's Like to be a New Member (**Lulu Esparza**). I need an article on fossil cleaning (**Rick Walker**). I need an article on fossils (**David Russ**). I need an article from **Emma Clark**. I need an article on A Past Rockhounding Adventure (**Pete Keiser**, who has contributed some great articles in past newsletters). You have your assignments, don't wait until the last minute to send them to me. We only have two months until the cutoff for the 2020 Bulletin Editors Contest. I want to thank Fred Mahaffey, Julia Toombs, Charles Creekmur, and Terry Roberts for your contributions to this month's newsletter.



**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.

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### 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.**

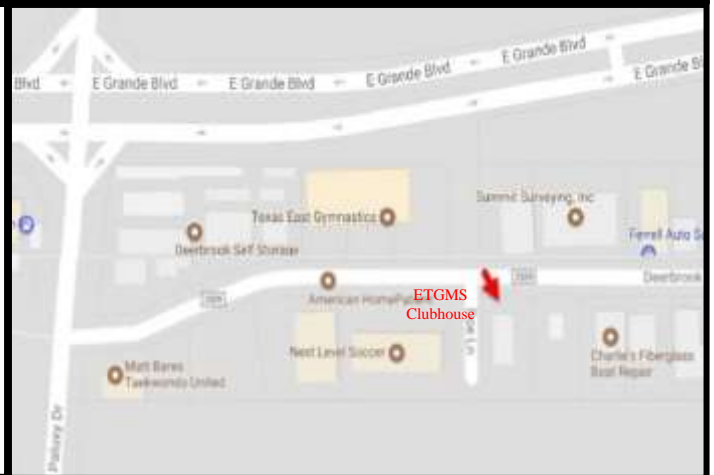
#### ANNUAL DUES:

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: Fred Mahaffey  
903-978-0268  
[frederickmahaffey@gmail.com](mailto:frederickmahaffey@gmail.com)

WEBMASTER: Margaret Kilanski  
971-219-3362  
[mlkilanski@yahoo.com](mailto:mlkilanski@yahoo.com)

VICE PRESIDENT: Terry Roberts  
903-881-5108  
[terry.roberts45@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.roberts45@yahoo.com)

EDITOR: Kinney Polve  
903-646-3189  
[rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com)

TREASURER: Marcia Graham  
903-312-4800  
[quilteddy@gmail.com](mailto:quilteddy@gmail.com)

SHOW SCHOOL DAY  
CHAIRPERSON: **NEEDED**

SECRETARY: Julia Toombs  
903-882-5809  
[jltoombs@suddenlink.net](mailto:jltoombs@suddenlink.net)

FIELD TRIP  
CHAIRMAN: **NEEDED**

CHAIRMAN SHOW: Keith Harmon  
903-795-3860  
[keithharmon19@yahoo.com](mailto:keithharmon19@yahoo.com)

### CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES

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



EDITOR: Kinney Polve  
8665 County Road 373D  
Henderson, Texas 75654  
Phone: 903-646-3189

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