

ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2020

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 22-23
CLEAR LAKE G&MS
PASADENA CONV. CTR
PASADENA, TX

FEBRUARY 22-23
HI-PLAINS G&MS
OLLIE LINER CENTER
PLAINVIEW, TX

MARCH 7-8
GULF COAST G&MS
RMB REG. FAIRGROUNDS
ROBSTOWN, TX

MARCH 7-8
BIG SPRINGS
PROSPECTORS CLUB
HOWARD CO. FAIR BARN
BIG SPRINGS, TX

MARCH 14-15
SOUTHWEST G&MS
SAN ANTONIO EVENT CTR
SAN ANTONIO, TX

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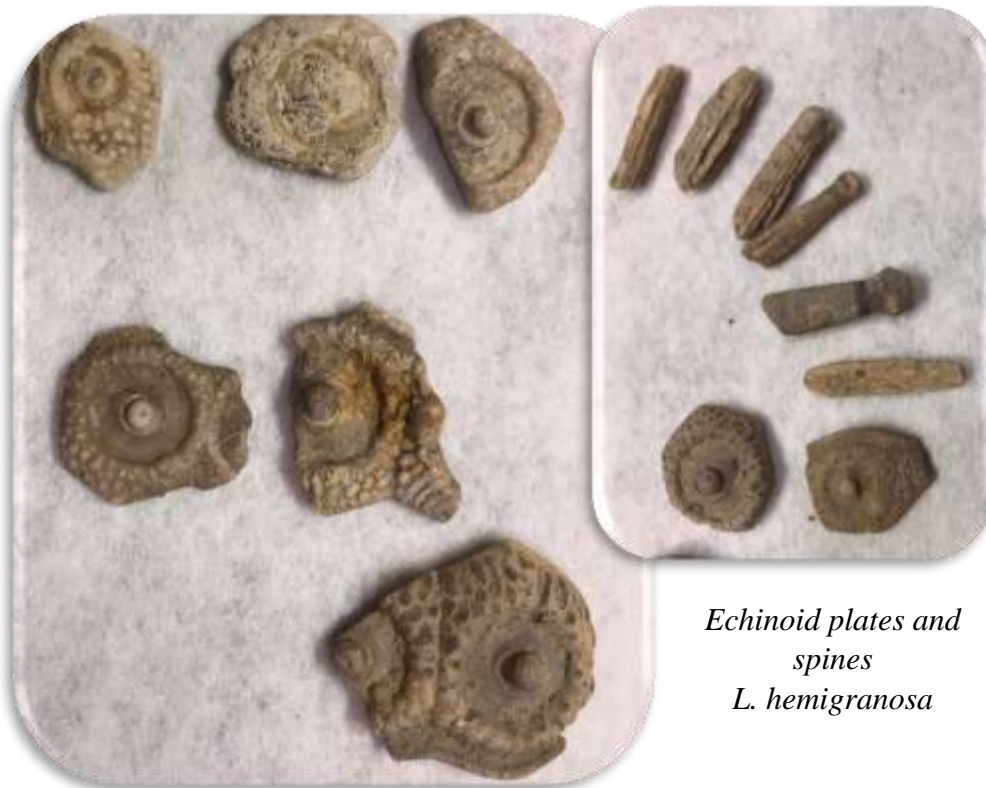
Header text background is courtesy of a photo from Robert Redmond.

President's Message

Thanks to all our members for the effort and hard work to make our 24th annual show another success. I got out for a while this morning and walked the shoreline of Lake Texoma looking for echinoid plates and spines.

It occurred to me that newbies have a hard time spotting fossil because of the lack of a database, like a computer. The optical scanner (eyes) search to make out something recognizable, but if the CPU (brain) doesn't have a database to search through you may be out of luck.

The point is, you should be devouring sources of fossil identification. Everyone should have at least one good fossil guide, or like me, a stack. The more examples you study, the more likely you will spot something. Good hunting! David Russ



*Echinoid plates and
spines
L. hemigranosa*

MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its monthly meeting on February 3, 2020. Vice President Terry Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:52 pm. He asked for the new members to introduce themselves. Terry asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion, Colleen Hayes seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Marcia Graham gave the report on the accounts.

Announcements:

- Kinney Polve gave a report on the annual show – paid attendance was up from the previous year with 2400 attendees; 150 more than last year. Net profits were up too. Kinney expressed “Thanks” to all club members who helped out. Sherry Breedlove and Rick Walker said they had talked to a few of the vendors who said the ETGMS Show is one of the best shows they had attended.

- Kinney Polve needs newsletter contributions including poems for February. These need to be submitted to him by February 10th. Junior members are encouraged to send in their contributions.

- Kinney Polve stated that all membership dues are due by the end of February. If not paid by then, the member will be dropped from the membership list, newsletter and access to members only pages on the website.

- Margaret Kilanski needs website contributions. She is working on updating the site with a wrap up of the 2020 Show, adding information for the 2021 Show and updated information on the sub groups. Please send her any information and/or photos you have of your collections, projects or trips.

- Lapidary sub-group – Per Kinney Polve - Next meeting Saturday, February 8th, 2 pm at the clubhouse. Kinney will lead a discussion on class schedules, both at the clubhouse and at his shop, and schedule of open times and dates for the lapidary workshop at the clubhouse. Terry sent around a sign up sheet for attendees to indicate days of week and times that they would like to see classes/workshops. If you sign up for a class/workshop - stay in touch with the instructor for any changes. Critter makers are welcome to come to the clubhouse during Lapidary sub-group meetings – just let Kinney or Terry know ahead of time.

- Mineral sub-group –Per Charles Creekmur – Next meeting February 11th, 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. The program will be on fluorescents. Charles mentioned

that new members are welcome to attend any meeting of the sub-groups.

- Fossil sub-group –Rick Walker spoke for David Russ – Next meeting is February. 18th, 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. They will be doing field trip planning.

- Gemology sub-group – Richard Armstrong – January meeting on diamonds was well received. Next meeting is February 20th, 6:30 pm at the clubhouse, program information to follow. Richard had available handouts on the next Gem Identification Courses. Next class starts February 29th. He also stressed the importance of accurately identifying gems.

- Field Trip Chairperson –Fred Mahaffey asked that attendees send him where they are interested in going and what they are interested in collecting. Fred said to see the newsletter for the field trip schedule. There is a possibility of a field trip later this month.

- Randy Harmon stated he will be bringing rocks to swap to each meeting.

Old business:

- No Rockhound of the Month.

New business:

- A visitor announced that there is a possibility that some of the Ladonia area is going to be flooded in the future to create a lake.

With no further business to discuss, Terry asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Jerry Sudderth so moved, Zachary Weeninik seconded, and the motion carried. Margaret counted 62 attendees of the meeting including 13 new members. Kinney presented the Jr. Raffle Prize to the winner and the raffle prize winner of the petrified wood with black crystals. Everyone got refreshments. Everyone had a grand time.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2th, at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Margaret Kilanski for Julia Toombs, Secretary



CLUB ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- February 18th – Fossil Group meeting 6:30 pm.
- February 20th – Gemology Group meeting 6:30 pm
- February 22nd – Lapidary Workshop open 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Terry Roberts has scheduled Cabochon Making Classes for most of the day, so you might want to check for available machine time.
- March 2nd – Monthly club meeting 6:45 pm.
- March 7th - Lapidary Workshop open 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Please make use of the shop equipment. Kinney Polve can set up a Cabochon Making Class for interested members.
- March 10th – Mineral Group meeting 6:30 pm.
- March 14th – Lapidary/Jewelry Group meeting 2:00pm.
- March 17th – Fossil Group meeting 6:30 pm.
- March 19th – Gemology Group meeting 6:30 pm.
- March 21st – Lapidary Workshop open 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Terry Roberts can set up a Cabochon Making Class for interested members.

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Lapidary Workshop

We will be trying to schedule a couple of days a month for members to have the opportunity to use the club equipment. There is a \$5.00 daily workshop fee to cover utilities and equipment maintenance. Bring correct change. You must have your membership card with you. Members must have completed the Cabochon Making Class before being able to utilize the workshop for their own projects. Cabochon Making Classes will be schedule on workshop days, for interested members. It is against ETGMS's policy to allow commercial work at the clubhouse.

The days that the clubhouse is open for the lapidary workshop give other members an opportunity to work on club projects, organize and clean. I encourage members to take advantage of this opportunity.

2020 Fieldtrip Schedule

March	Ash Grove Quarry Midlothian	March TBD	Minerals, Fossils
April	Rock Swap - Clubhouse	April 25 th	Rock Swap, Cook Out
April	Badu Hill Quarry, Mason, Texas	April TBD	Pegmatites, Fluorite, other minerals
May	Mt. Ida Arkansas	May 30 th – 31 st	Quartz Crystals
June	Petrified Wood TBD	June 27 th	Petrified Wood
July	Oklahoma	July 26 th - 27 th	Hourglass Selenite, fossils
August	Magnet Cove, Arkansas	August 29 th	Pyrite
September	Duncanville, Texas	September 28 th	Septarian, fossils
October	Rock Swap - Clubhouse	September 21 st	Rock Swap, Cook Out
November	TBD		
December	Christmas Party	December 1 st	

All field trips are subject to change at a moment's notice. Stay in contact with the trip leader.

A Look into the Past

By Julia Toombs

This article was written before I left on vacation. The *only* work I do on a trip is to keep a journal, have a great time, and learn something interesting and useful. I don't even think I sleep that much because I can sleep when I'm dead. It's hard to get unwound at night. I do have a biography for you this month because I hated to leave our editor without a contribution. My friend, Geva Roberts, handed me the information at the last meeting, and I wrote it up.

Geva was born in St. Louis, Missouri, though she was raised in Arnold, about 20 miles from St. Louis and a couple of miles from the Missouri River. While growing up, the family often went to Elephant Rocks. They climbed all over the giants, and this was the beginning of her interest in rocks. In their own backyard, they often found arrowheads.

Geva is retired from the United States Army Corps of Engineers as a secretary and buyer of office supplies. Many years ago, her husband, Terry, got interested in the rocks she loved to play with. They decided that Terry would make cabs, and Geva would wire wrap them. Due to injuries to her hands, Geva is unable to do wrapping, so Terry does both. She gives her thoughts to the things he makes, because she loves gemstone jewelry. Her birthstone is emerald and her first love.

Terry and Geva have been to gem and mineral shows all over the country. She says it's been interesting to see what the different shows have. There are always rock shops to visit. At one small place going out of business, she bought 13 carved ruby zoisite pieces. "This is my best find ever." She had them strung for a necklace.

Geva always goes to the critter workshops and has learned a new hobby this past year, rock-painting. She likes the Folk-Art style.

Thank you, Geva, for your contribution. I remember reading about Elephant Rocks in one of our old magazines. When I looked it up online, Elephant Rocks became a State Park in 1967. Park information said they are formed from 1.5-billion-year-old (Precambrian) granite blocks in the St. Francois Mountains, and they stand end-to-end like a train of pink circus elephants.

I anxiously await *your* biography. Let's be friends, not just acquaintances. See you in March.



Stone or Rock – that is the question...

by Margaret Kilanski

Am I a stone or am I a rock?
 As a stone I can be an old old bone.
 As a rock I can be a solid block.
 As a stone I moan all night long.
 As a rock I don't make a very good sock.
 As a stone I zone when I'm around the rock.
 As a rock I mock stone at every spot.
 As a stone I'm prone to not seeing rock.
 As a rock I see stone around the block.
 As a stone I can own all the bone.
 I guess I'm a stone ... but wait maybe I'm a rock.

Made For Each Other

by Marcia Graham

Turquoise and silver are such a lovely pair.
 You can't find a better combination anywhere.
 I'll proudly wear them from head to toe,
 Making heads turn wherever I go.

Agates

by Marcia Graham

Slice open agates and you will find,
 Colors that will blow your mind.
 Amazing patterns and pictures within,
 Not to appreciate them is a sin.

Rocks of Ages

by Marcia Graham

Many rocks and gemstones, as we all know,
Were mentioned in the Bible, a long time ago.

Moses carried commandments on two tablets of stone.
David took out Goliath, with a rock of his own.

Twelve beautiful gemstones, were worn by the priests,
Whenever they served, ceremonies and feasts.

All through the Bible, examples are given,
How rocks have improved, our everyday livin'.

Even in the final book, we are told,
We'll see lovely gemstones, along streets of gold.

I find it amazing, that throughout all of time,
God used so many rocks, that are favorites of mine.

For each rock and gemstone, our God had a plan,
For discovery, beauty, to be used by man.

Let it Rain

by Kinney Polve

Stormy skies, sometimes bother me.
When the rain comes down, inside we flee.
But when rockhounding, outside I go,
Because there is something, you may not know.

When it rains, the rocks are wet,
And you can see them, I'll just bet.
I took a field trip, down south of Holbrook,
On a dirt road, to take a look.

The rain had let up, as my search began.
It was petrified wood, that was the plan.
Now with all the rocks wet, it was easy to see,
All the colorful wood, just waiting for me.

Next time you go hunting, and it begins to rain,
Don't get discouraged, think about what you will gain.
All those rocks wet, and washed off for you.
You'll have a nice collection, before you are through.

I'm so Blue

by Kinney Polve

There are a lot us out there, just waiting for you.
And so many colors, with a beautiful hue.
You might can name them, there are more than a few.
There are so many out there, in all shades of blue.

Chrysocolla might be, one of the best.
But Topaz might be better, if I was to guess.
Maybe Azurite is, the one for your quest.
Having any of these, you might feel blessed.

You might have a hankering, for some Blue Apatite.
Or it may be Lapis Lazuli, that fits you just right.
There are some others, like Sodalite.
And there's also Turquoise, with a shine so bright.

You can also find Diamonds, in the color of blue,
And Aquamarines, are just waiting for you.
There are some dyed stones, but if that won't do,
There Zircon and Tanzanite, and Sapphires too.

With so many out there, too many to list,
You may know of some, that I have missed.
So many more, I know do exist.
This poem's long enough, I'm going to desist.

Where are they?

by Colleen Hayes

I have my bucket, my hammer, my hat.
I don't need much more than that.

Well, maybe my water, my boots and a guide,
To help me locate those rocks that hide.

I looked into gullies and along road cuts,
I even looked in my car tire ruts.

Finally, I found the most perfect spot,
And I picked up rocks, until I got really hot.

Then I packed up my stuff and hit the road,
Hauling home my heavy load!

Earth Science Enigma

By Fred Mahaffey

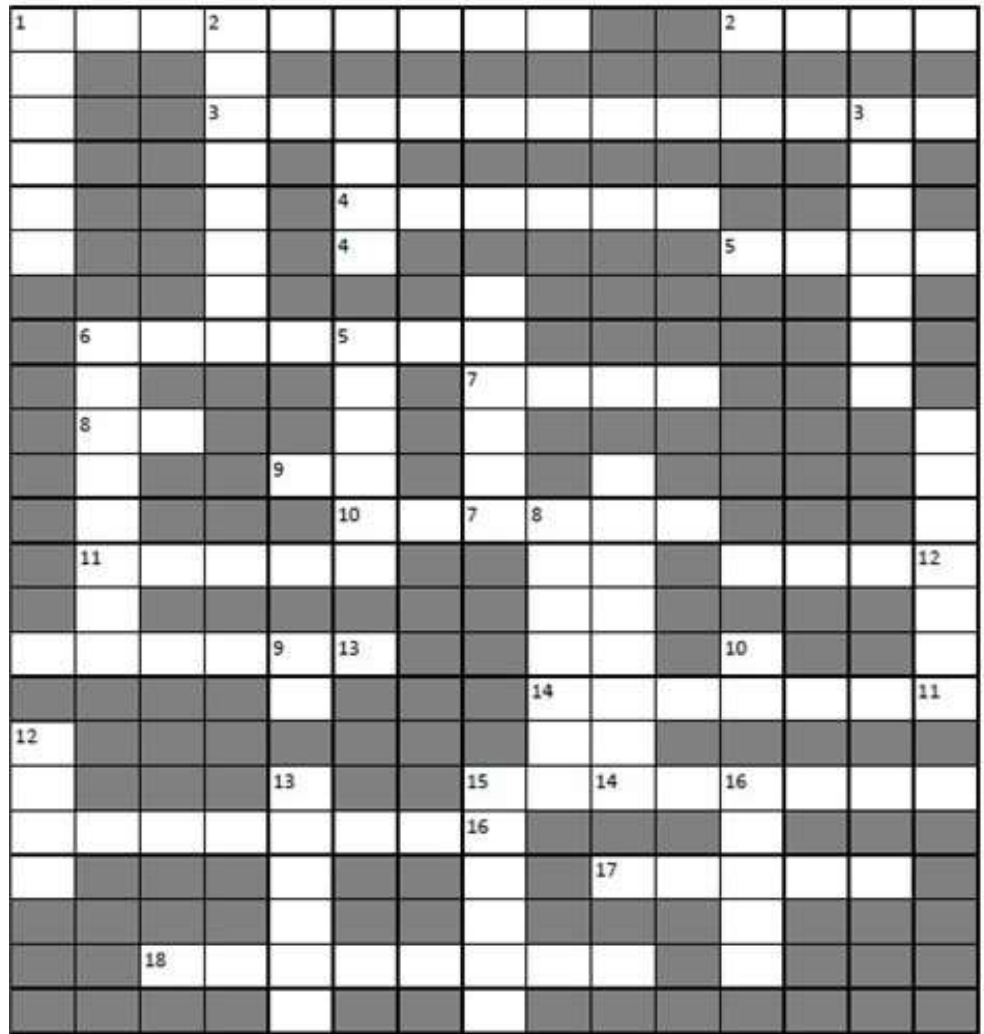
Across (forward or backwards)

1. Something you take to collect rocks and fossils
2. Pink to blood red gemstone
3. Study of fossils
4. Fool's Gold
5. _____ Panning
6. Quartz _____
7. Usually Magnetic
8. Symbol for Galena
9. Element symbol for 6th most abundant element in the earth's crust
10. Ore of zirconium
11. Blue stone
12. Tool used by prospector
13. From the Latin word Granatum
14. Rock formed from cooling lava
15. Used to make jewelry
16. Fibonacci Fossil
17. Rock with crystal cavity
18. Soft Drink can

Down or Up

1. Preserved biological object
2. Art of making jewelry
3. Study of earth science
4. A mineraloid- Black, Fire, Boulder, etc.
5. Texas state gemstone
6. Dinosaur poo
7. Titanium Dioxide
8. Commonly forms stalagmites
9. Symbol for gold
10. Symbol for Iron
11. Yellow Mineral - Stinks
12. Petrified wood commonly comes from _____s
13. _____chloride=table salt
14. Prehistoric shark
15. Lead
16. Mosasaur _____

Answers on page 9.



There Once Was a Rock That Learned to Roll

by: Fred Mahaffey ETGMS

It was round and smooth,
I thought it was a roll and I chipped a tooth.

I dropped it on the floor and it cracked,
It flew across the floor as if it was wacked.

It hit hard and lost a chip,
It bounced and made the sound of a whip.

I picked it up and threw it out the door,
Accidentally hit the dog who let out a roar.

It sailed through the air,
And it rolled with the dog tangled in hair.

The dog thought I was playing and brought it back to the bowl,
And that is the Rock that learned to Roll.

The Importance of Clubs

by Charles Creekmur

Clubs are the lifeblood of our hobby,

A place to come and meet.

Those that want to find,
The knowledge that they seek.

Can come and share with others,

Experiences and skills,
And talents they have gained,
While hiking in the hills.

Studying fossils or minerals,

Or polishing a stone,
Be it Agate or jasper,
Or a piece of dino bone.

Hours of enjoyment,
are spent with our group.

Cutting and polishing,
Or making a wire-wrap loop.

So, my advice to you,
My friend is this,
Find a club, join up and see,
What you have missed.

If Rocks Could Talk

by Dora Cleveland

If rocks could talk
What ageless history is hidden?

Whether darkened tears

Or glowing skins
Snowflakes in time

Politely written
Or fiery passions
Like embers smitten.

And what of the seas
In mountains lifted
Leviathan sleeping
In beds strewn with shells

And fossiled fishes
In undisturbed pools

Still swimming
Where dinosaurs tread.

Imagine a meteor's song
Trailing toward earth
Through heaven's faceted stars
Observe O man the maker's touch

Too obvious for words
What can we say?
Our fashion statement crude
Adorns a frame of clay.

ミネラル (Mineraru)

By Jeff Lewis

Dolomite, Calcite
Ubiquitous Minerals
Useful, Spiritual



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

KINNEY'S BENCH TIPS

There may come a time when you find a need to cut some lapidary material, but it can't be clamped in the saw vise. For those of us that have been cutting slabs for years, it's second nature to clamp it up. For those who are new to cutting rough rock into slabs, this information is for you. They are called by many names; slab grabber, rock clamp, etc., and may have a different appearance, but they are all made to accomplish the same task. Rock clamps are made to clamp a rough rock, that otherwise would be impossible with only the saw vise. With most clamps, you will need a flat surface to clamp to. If there is not a good surface to clamp to, you can use the capping machine to make one. Once the rock clamp is securely clamped to the rock, you can put the rock clamp in your saw vise. Problem solved!

If you have a tip or trick that may be helpful to our members, drop me an email and I will get it in the newsletter.

An Observation Realized

By Kinney Polve

With all that is involved in organizing the chaos of the annual show, there's always a learning process. Those in the frontlines know this far too well. The show is an evolution from year to year. Partially to keep it fresh and exciting, but also to adjust for small problems that may have occurred in the previous show. I don't intend to discuss the show, so much in this article, but an observation I realized during the process. This happened while trying to gain knowledge about past shows. This wasn't something new, I just finally came to realize it. Our members rarely volunteer to take over an office or position in our organization, unless a person steps completely away from it, or dies. I'm not saying this is always the case, but it seems to be the norm. Please don't misunderstand, we have some members that are quite the opposite. These members realize the need, and then volunteer for too many different positions, and soon become overwhelmed. While speaking with a long-time member, the statement was made that we need new members to be involved. She also stated that, this usually doesn't happen until someone vacates the position, just stepping completely away. Once there's this void, a member will fill it, but not until we have this void. I often tend to complain about having too many things to oversee in the club, but many of our volunteers don't complain. Some of these needs should be taken on by other members. We had several good articles published in last year's newsletter concerning volunteering. They all talked about sharing the load. By observation, I could see that Fred Mahaffey needed a replacement as president. Not because he wasn't performing his duties, but because his personal job demands had increased, and decreased the time he had to serve his office. Thankfully, David Russ volunteered to take over. Afterwards, Fred didn't step back, he volunteered to take the Field Trip Chairman position, which didn't require as much time. New and old members alike need to observe and fill the needs required to keep our organization strong and energized. If you don't have a lot of spare time, help out where you can. Don't sit back; get involved!



Crossword puzzle key.



February 8th – Lapidary/Jewelry Group Meeting

Kinney Polve opened the meeting with 21 attendees; 12 of which were first timers to a Lapidary/Jewelry group meeting. Attendees expressed interest in jewelry making, mineral collection, lapidary work – selecting, cutting, polishing, silversmithing, and wire-wrapping to name a few.

We had a lively discussion including these highlights, the first six bullets are good reminders for all club members -

- Kinney reminded us that everyone should feel free to hand out club business cards anytime you can. The cards are provided by the club, and you can pick them up at the clubhouse. The cards help us spread the word that ETGMS is here and welcoming to all.

- Club equipment cannot be used to make commercial products.

- Tyler Maker's Faire is coming up in March 18, 2020. Volunteers are needed.

- Please volunteer!! We need everyone's help to keep our wonderful club going and growing. Don't be afraid to volunteer. It's fun to learn something new. Let Kinney or Terry know if you would like to lead a discuss or class.

- Lots of great magazines and books are in the club library to check out or you can buy extra copies.

- Always wear or bring your club membership card when you attend club events. It helps us all get to know each other's names and is required when you attend classes, events, field trips, workshops, labs etc. at the clubhouse and offsite. The card will validate that you are a member in good standing and confirm which classes you have completed – so the workshop supervisor knows that you are qualified to use specific club equipment.

- Signup sheets were provided for lapidary workshop interest.

- Members must complete a cabochon class before they can use the club's capping, flat laps and saws equipment. This ensures that the member understands how and for what purpose the equipment can be used and the safety requirements. Replacement wheels for capping machines are expensive. Safety is of upmost importance!

- When the lapidary workshop is open, qualified members can sign up to use the club's equipment. There will be a small fee for use of the lapidary workshop – paid in cash (please bring the correct amount) at the time a member uses the workshop. The workshop supervisor has the responsibility and final say in how the club's equipment will be used. If you sign up for shop time, be sure and let the supervisor know

if you're not going to make your time slot. At this time, Kinney Polve and Terry Roberts are the workshop supervisors. A brief discussion on use of capping machines to prep and polish small (less than 1 1/2" in diameter) specimens will be allowed.

- Signup sheets were provided for classes – wire-wrapping, capping (the club will provide tools and materials for these classes), knapping, and silversmithing classes (beginner and advanced are at Kinney's shop in Henderson and there is a cost for the materials).
- Archie Engledow and Margaret Kilanski are working on getting the pans needed to set up the flat lap and trim saw in the workshop.
- Kinney is working on getting a gem faceting machine for the club.



Several attendees brought items for show and tell. Ken Needham showed several of his seam turquoise cabs – wish I would have got a picture of them. Ed Grounds brought a variety of tumbled and wire wrapped pendants that he's been working on. I enjoyed a conversation with Archie and Mary Needham about projects using bigger slabs pieces in home décor – stain glass projects, lamps etc.

The group discussed possible future meeting demonstrations and/or classes - here are a few areas we talked about - Lapidary equipment use and safety, material selection & polishing compounds, Tree of Life pendants, wire wrapping, gem trees, doublet & capping, coatings & stabilization, casting.

Next meeting will be March 14th, at 2 pm at the clubhouse. Ken Needham will do a demonstration and talk on investment casting. He will demonstrate processes that can be accomplished in the time, space and conditions available at the clubhouse. He'll discuss those steps that are outside of these constraints.

From all this, the Lapidary/Jewelry Group is kicking off 2020 with a bang – so what's the Fossil, Mineralogy and Gemology Groups got planned for 2020?
Margaret Kilanski

Gem Identification Class

In case you missed it, the next Gem ID class will be February 29th starting at 8:00 am. We will have both classes, Part 1 and 2. If you took Part 1 last year, you may retake it at no charge unless you need the course materials. I trust that you all kept your course materials. We had four who took both parts 1 and 2. The same offer applies to you too, may retake both parts at no charge.

We plan to offer both parts back to back in one day four times this year, once per quarter. We will charge a flat fee of \$25 per part to cover the use fee to the club plus course materials. Any excess will go into our fund to purchase lab equipment.

Once you complete both parts you should take the lab sessions. These will be in my lab for the foreseeable future. You will be doing actual testing and identification of a variety of gem materials I will provide. These will include faceted stones, cabs, beads, some rough, etc. from my collection. I recommend doing five to ten stones per session. You will have to do a number of these sessions. Initially, I or one of the other instructors, will work with you, but as you progress you will receive less help. Once you have several sessions where you correctly identify the stones you are given, you may take the final exam. It will be patterned after the GIA twenty stone exam and proctored by one of us. Successful completion will earn our Gem Identification Certificate. This certificate will qualify you to identify gems and qualify you to use the club gem identification lab, if and when we can get one set up. I hope at future shows we can once again offer gem identification services. Having several members qualified to identify gems means that we can have several who can do that at the show, instead of just relying on one or two of our gemologists. We were unable to offer it this year, because it would have just been me doing it.

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

Three Days at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Shows

by Margaret Kilanski

Here's what you need to know before I launch into my story – Per the Tucson Show Guide (www.TucsonShowGuide.com) - 3000+ officially registered vendors, 45+ venues, All over town and beyond, Wholesale and Retail - Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads, Jewelry, Tools & Equipment, 65,000+ visitors from all over the world.

Not counted in the show guide information are the countless number of independent miners and sellers who have set up tents and tables in large parking lots, vacant lots, front yards etc... all over town. It's like doing Canton Market Days on mega steroids with only rock and rock stuff vendors.

Due to work and school schedule, my daughter (Krista) could only carve out five days; two of which were travel days to be away from home. Krista has a business in Portland, Oregon, and this was a buying and suppliers/miners meeting up trip for her. I was along for the adventure and to be a second set of hands to watch over her boxes/flats and make trips back and forth to the car. She and I met at the Tucson Int. Airport on Tuesday, January. 28th.

Wednesday morning, we met with the Amethyst, Sodalite and carved animal supplier. I wish I had room in my suitcase and my checkbook for the huge Sodalite cube in the picture. After lunch, we were off to see several of the shops/warehouses that are home based in Tucson. At one of the shops, I picked up a few pieces of the Wavellite, rosettes in black shale from Ballybunnion, County Kerry, Ireland from the miner who collected them. The rosettes in this material fluoresces a pretty green/blue and the miner had a wonderful storyboard on how the material was collected on windswept cliffs and all.

Thursday started out at the 22nd Street Mineral, Fossil & Gem Show. This is where we met with a Selenite and Orthoceras fossil merchant from Morocco. Krista was buying blocks of Selenite to be craved into figurines, towers, etc. This merchant had Orthoceras plates and towers several feet high and round. We finished the day out at the Pueblo Gem & Mineral Show searching and finding a few Ammolites in our price range. Ammolite is an opal-like organic gemstone found primarily along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains of North America. It is made of the fossilized shells of ammonites, which in turn are composed primarily of aragonite, the same mineral contained in nacre, with a microstructure inherited from the shell, per Wikipedia. I think this is some of the most beautiful treasures there are!! We also purchased several carved pieces of pyrite from Peru.

We spent the first part of Friday selecting finished jewelry pieces from a merchant at the Madagascar Mineral Gem Show. Krista told me, I'm a great selector for things I like, but not so good at picking a general selection and I take too much time - I do a lot of "Oohing & Aahing". I know she loves me anyway :):). A black opal display caught my eye – so I spent some time running my hands through a bin with several hundred pieces of black opal in water – searching for the right few pieces. The miner was telling me stories of the mine site – dingos, snakes, claim jumpers, sheep and what a desolate place it is. We finished the day at a miners' co-op pop up show that was set up about 20 miles out of Tucson. Here we found a miner with Amazonite from North of Lake George, Colorado. While Krista was picking out pieces she wanted, the miner told me how to clean Fluorite using the same acid that is in Pepsi – I'm going to try it out later this spring. I picked up a piece of fluorescent calcite from Gopher Valley, Sheraton, Oregon from the miner who collected it. This material fluoresces a soft lime green.

Each day we also made several quick stops to check out merchandise that would catch our eye.

It can be an adventure just figuring out a vendors pricing – it can be tricky. Vendors prices can be by the kilo, pound, piece, flat, box, net, keystone, wholesale only, % discount, colored tags or dots.

While attending the shows you can take 1000s of pictures of fantastic specimens. I've only included a few here for your viewing pleasure.

For a quick wrap up - in the three days we drove over 150 miles and never got more than 20 miles out of town. We spent \$75 for parking, \$0 on show admission fees. Krista's step counter app logged 45000+ steps. Expect to spend lots of time waiting in checkout lines. Each day we were in the car by 8:00 am and didn't get back to our Airbnb till after 8:00 pm at night. Note – when booking a Airbnb or hotel in Tucson be sure to check if it is near the train tracks – the trains run almost hourly all night.



Krista shipped via a pallet, just short of 2000 lbs. of materials, back to Portland and she had 125 lbs. of the more fragile materials in her suitcases. I only had 35 extra lbs. coming home with me, including several copies of the show guides to share with friends. When I went thru the x-ray at the airport, the TSA agent laughed and said, "It's rock show time again."

As with a lot of other things in life – there is never enough time or money to see all of the Tucson Gem & Minerals Shows – but it's worth doing with what time and money you have!!

SHOP TIME

I completed four cabs a few weeks ago, but never got around to taking pictures due to interruptions and procrastination. The cab on the far upper right is probably a Coyamito agate from the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and the largest cab on the left may be from the San Carlos area in the State of Chihuahua. The cab at the bottom of the photos is from a nodule that I purchased from Keith Harmon at one of his rock sales about a year ago. Unfortunately, he has no idea of where it came from. I would love to go to the source to see if I could find more of those nodules. The nodule produced five nice slabs. I think this cab is from the best slab of the bunch. The other two pictures show a view of the largest cab with what appears to be many cracks, but I think they may be the edges of quartz crystal faces and a red and green moss agate (middle of the top row) with transmitted light. Terry Roberts



If you don't receive the Rock-N-Rose Newsletter in March, it's because your membership dues weren't paid for 2020. I have updated our membership list, and you will no longer receive update email.

Annual Show

Here are a few show related photos I took this year. Our adult grand prize winner was Madeline Teel, and the student grand prize winner was Nicolas Chlapek. Also, here are photos of a few of the wonderful club members that helped make it a great show. Kinney Polve



Lapidary/Jewelry Group – Meets on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm, except December and January. Terry Roberts leads this group. Contact Terry to have your name added to the email. terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

Mineral Group – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. Contact Charles to have your name added to the email. - calcite65@gmail.com

Fossil Group – Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. David Russ heads up the group. Contact David to have your name added to the email. dbruss50@gmail.com

Gemology Group Meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. The group is led by Richard Armstrong. Contact Richard to have your name added to the email. 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.ORG

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.

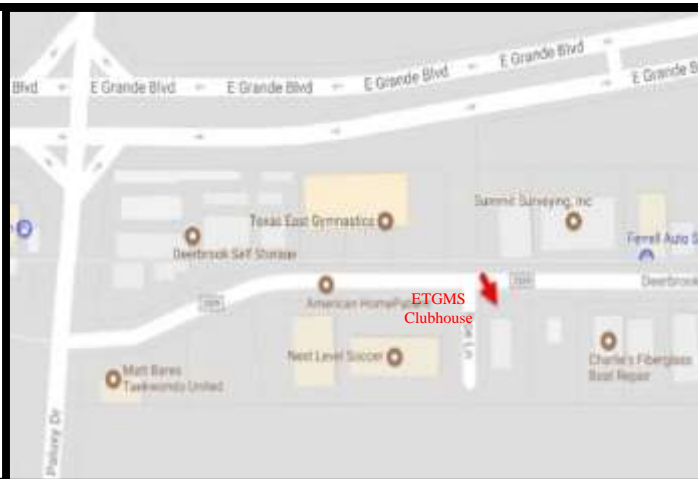
ANNUAL DUES:

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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