



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2015

Coming Shows, 2016

JANUARY 16-17
FREDERICKSBURG, TX
Annual show;
Fredericksburg Rockhounds
Lady Bird Johnson Park
HWY 16 SO.

JANUARY 22-24
TYLER, TX
Wholesale and retail show
East Texas Gem & Mineral So.
Tyler Rose Center
420 Rose Park Drive

FEBRUARY 20-21
GEORGETOWN, TX
Annual show
Williamson Co. Gem & Mineral Soc.
Community Center
445 East Morrow Street

FEBRUARY 27-27
LLANO, TX
Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail
Llano County Community Center
2249 Ranch Road 152

MARCH 11-13
SAN ANTONIO, TX
Annual show
Exhibit Group International
Embassy Suite Hotel
7750 Briaridge Drive

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those of you that collect minerals, I hope you get some coal in your stocking this year. I always enjoy this time of the year, with family and friends, and the fellowship that goes with the season. And let's not forget all that turkey. I look forward to seeing everyone next year.

There are still plenty of openings on the signup sheets for the different areas at the show. Also for those members interested in setting up one of the display cases, get your name on the list soon. Let's get all these signup sheets filled out early, volunteering to help out at the show is a great way to help and support the club. Let's not wait for Keith Harmon to have to call you, he has enough to do as it is.

We have a pre-show workshop scheduled for January 9, 2016. We will be holding it in Bullard, same as last year. Please mark your calendars so you don't forget. We will be making items for the wheel of fortune and the silent auction. If you have never been, plan to attend, you'll be glad you did. We do get a lot of work done, but it gives members a lot of time to socialize with other members.

ETGMS is back on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/groups/789858501141328/, this is the link to our group page. So, for those of you that are Facebook members, drop by and join the group. I have not made any progress gaining control of our old East Texas Gem & Mineral Society Community Facebook page, from the past member that started it for the club. With the new East Texas Gem & Mineral Society group Facebook page, the club has a lot more control over who can be members, and the posts in the group. This is an excellent place for members to keep the rest of us informed on their activities, which are club related. So let's get active.

I hope all of you had as much fun as I did at the December meeting. It looked like some of you might have had too much fun, if that is possible. I always let all the members know that this is the meeting they don't want to miss, but if you missed it, we will be doing it again next year.

Membership dues were due in October, if you haven't paid yours, please get them paid. We update the members list this month, and anybody that hasn't paid their dues will no longer receive the newsletter, and club related emails, also your login will be removed from the website.

Kinney Polve

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DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

President, Kenney Polve called the meeting to order on December 7, 2015 at 6:50 pm.

Amy Smith came to visit. She became a rock hound at an early age and still walks with her head down to the ground.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. The motion was made by Terry Roberts and seconded by Penny Hawkins.

The new treasurer, Elsa Jerger, reported that the change over to her is progressing.

Lapidary Arts Group: There will be no December meeting of the lapidary arts group. The January meeting will be the January 7th workday for all club members. The February meeting will be at Kenney's workshop.

Field Trip: Fred Mahaffey needs to know if you are interested in a short trip to Arkansas to look for quartz crystals at the Coleman Mine on December 19th. Weather is a big factor in making this trip. If he has your name he will call you the week before the trip to let you know the details.

Newsletter: The newsletter may be published early this month due to the holidays. Susan Burch is looking for help from you. Send her articles and pictures about what you are doing with your hobby.

Announcements:

- Ernest Howe is progressing well with his cancer treatment and looking forward to celebrating his birthday.
- Send articles and pictures about your work to Kenny. He will add them to the club's website. He has spent a good bit of time on Facebook trying to secure a site under the club's control. He has been able to set up a Facebook Group Page that he will manage. Let Kenny know if you would like to help with the administration of this media. The hope is to have several people who will monitor this page.
- Annual dues should be paid by now. The current membership list and lapidary arts group list will be compiled early in January. Please let Terry know if you want to remain on the lapidary arts group list.
- The annual gem show will be January 22, 23 and 24. Volunteers are needed for all duties and at all times of the show. Sign up sheets are available at club meetings or you can email or call any of the officers. Their information is on the last page of the newsletter each month.
- Saturday, January 2 will be the day to fill the display cases at the Tyler Public Library. Items are needed to put in the cases and help is needed to do the set up. Randy Harmon asked for all members to contribute shiny rocks and crystals. These are placed with the cases for patrons to select one to take with them. This is one of the most important ways to advertise the gem show.
- Posters advertising the gem show were available to be taken and placed in public areas that you frequent.

Old Business: Old business was covered in the announcements.

New Business: No new business was brought to our attention.

Our next meeting will be January 4, 2016. Brad Martin will present the program.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Becky Whisenant. Colleen Hayes seconded the motion. Refreshments were served.

Our program was the annual Christmas gift exchange. The evening ended after much visiting and laughter.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Davis



The 20th Annual ETGMS Gem & Mineral Show



**The club needs volunteers to help at the Gem & Mineral show!
January 22 - 24, 2016**

Putting on the annual Gem and Mineral Show is a challenge for the club and your help is especially requested.

We need all manner of folks for the following jobs.

Show Setup January 21, 2016

- Front Desk
- Friday Demonstrations
- Fluorescent Display
- Silent Auction Table
- Wheel of Fortune
- Show tear down

Friday night Dealer Dinner

- Help setting up dinner.
- Help during dinner.
- Help with cleanup after dinner.
- Club members are requested to donate a side dish which can serve 15-20 people.

The following side dishes are need:

- Different types of Salads
- Bread or dinner rolls
- Desserts
- Vegetable/pasta/rice dishes

This is the biggest revenue generating venue of the year for ETGMS. We ask our volunteers for only a few hours commitment at a time. You may work as many shifts or jobs as you desire.

Sign-up sheets are available at the club meetings or contact:
Kinney Polve at (903) 646-3189 or email to kpolve@gmail.com.

Keith Harmon at (903) 795-3860.

Silent Auction Table—We are in need of donated items for the silent auction table.

- Rough for cutting
- Cut slabs and finished cabs
- Minerals
- Fossils
- Jewelry supplies, tools or equipment
- This could be a good time to clean out that ever-growing rock stash!

Donations may be dropped off at the club meeting or contact to arrange for pick up.

We appreciate all the members who help make the Annual Show a success. Please lend a hand in putting on this year's Show.

Please ask your friends and family to attend the show.
We hope to see all of you at this Year's Show! Thank You!



LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP

The December Lapidary/Jewelry Group meeting has been cancelled due to Holiday events and activities that everyone is/will be involved in.

The January L/J Group meeting will be held at the same time as the annual Club workshop to prepare items for the Wheel of Fortune and the Silent Auction for the Club's annual gem and mineral show in January. The date and time will be announced later by Kinney Polve. The location of the workshop will be at the Bullard Church of Christ. Directions to the Church will be provided when the date and time are announced. Please attend this event and lend a helping hand to the club as it gets prepared for the annual show. This is the Club's biggest fund raiser of the year and helps get the club's name and purpose out to the public.

Also, please consider volunteering your time in helping at the show in whatever capacity that you would like do. It takes a lot of time and effort to put the show on and it would help lighten the burden for the workers if you would volunteer some of your time. Thanks for helping out.



OKLAHOMA FOSSIL LOCALITIES - 37 LOCATIONS TO FIND FOSSILS

This is a book recently published by Mark McKinzie, member of the Dallas Paleontological Society, who co-authored numerous publications of the Dallas Paleontological Society.

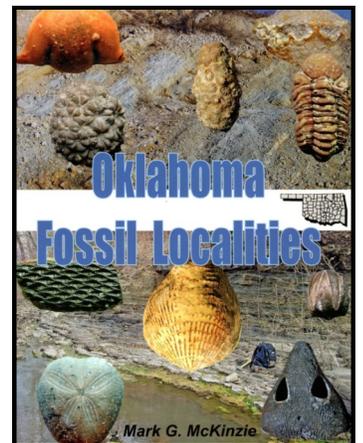
***37 fossil localities described in detail - Ranging in age from the Ordovician into the Cretaceous.**

***Nearly 350 Oklahoma fossil species illustrated - Most in FULL COLOR!**

***A collector's guide to the fossil riches of Oklahoma, USA.**

***166 pages soft cover book, measuring 11" X 8 1/2" X 5/8"**

***ISBN: 978-0-578-13920-3**



Mark McKinzie - Mark has collected fossils since he was five years old and growing up in the glacial drift deposits of northern Illinois. He received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Geology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1980. Mark has been in and out of the oil and gas industry since graduating college. He lived in the fossil-rich state of Oklahoma from 1980 until 1992. Mark currently reside here and continues to cross the Red River on occasion to do so.

Opening Paragraph of the Preface: Oklahoma has an almost embarrassing rich assortment of paleontological resources. Pre-Cambrian igneous rocks can be seen in the Wichita Mountains of southwestern Oklahoma, the Tishomingo Granite area in the south-central portion of the state, and the Spavinaw Granite in the extreme north-eastern corner. These igneous bodies were emplaced approximately 1.37 billion years ago and are non-fossiliferous. Representative rocks of almost the entire Paleozoic and Mesozoic sequences can be found somewhere in the state. A mid to late Tertiary sedimentary drape covers the high plains of Western Oklahoma and represents the continual erosion and shedding of rocks eastward from the uplifted Rocky Mountains of Colorado and northern New Mexico since the end of the Cretaceous. Finally, Pleistocene and Recent alluvium deposits along the major river drainages in Oklahoma entomb fossilized remains of the large mammal fauna from the last ice age.

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Oklahoma-Fossil-Localities-/111839239922?>



In view of the meteorite specimen which was shown by a guest at November's meeting, I thought you might enjoy this article. SB

FIELD TRIPS—SUE POARCH ROCKS FROM THE SKY

On March 6, twenty plus members of the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club met for a tour of the Monnig Museum on the Texas Christian University (TCU) campus. Teresa Moss, director of the Monnig Museum, guided us through one of the outstanding collections of meteorites in this country, if not in the world. First I'll give a little history about the origins of the museum. Oscar Monnig started collecting meteorites as a young man. As he traveled around the state, he set up a network among the ranchers and farmers whereby he would buy any meteorite that was brought to him. People would frequently bring pieces from the same meteorite, and he bought them. Later having multiple specimens from the same meteorite, proved to be useful for scientific studies of the meteorites. During the 1970s Mr. Monnig donated his meteorite collection to TCU. After his death, he left a trust that created the Monnig Museum. The proceeds of this trust can only be utilized for the museum, thus assuring TCU will continue to grow and research the meteorite collection. What are meteorites and where do they originate? A meteorite is a piece of rock that comes from outside the Earth's atmosphere. The majority of meteorites originate in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. A meteorite may be a result of a collision between two asteroids that breaks up one (or both) of the asteroids and throws the resulting pieces into a path with the earth (or the moon or another asteroid). When a piece of asteroid falls through our atmosphere, it appears to us as what we call a 'falling star'. Most meteorites are consumed prior to impact with the earth. The size of the asteroid piece/meteorite affects the amount that is consumed. If the meteorite is the size of a building (or greater), it is unaffected by our atmosphere and impacts the earth creating a crater. Frequently the meteorite is broken upon impact and the resulting meteorite pieces are scattered across a large area. The resulting crater, as well as the meteorite pieces, is subject to erosion. To see a meteorite crater that is in good condition, visit Meteor Crater in Arizona. There are three types of meteorites fall to earth - iron, stone, and stony iron. An iron meteorite, as the name indicates, consists primarily of iron, usually along with nickel, and will adhere to a magnet. As the iron content causes the meteorite to rust over time, the majority of meteorites, iron and stony iron, are found in arid terrain, especially in areas that are ranches or farmed. Remember who found most of Oscar Monnig's meteorites? A stony iron meteorite is any meteorite that consists of both the iron/nickel of the iron meteorite and the silicates of the stone meteorite. Other minerals, mainly silicates, found on earth make up a stone meteorite. A sliced and polished meteorite can be a truly outstanding specimen. The museum contains a number of such specimens. The variety of colors and patterns is amazing. Earlier I said that the majority of meteorites originate in the asteroid belt. However, a meteorite can originate from the moon or Mars. This occurs when a meteorite impacts either our moon or Mars with sufficient force to cause pieces of the moon/Mars to fly off into space, and eventually land as a meteorite on earth. Oscar Monnig's collection contained meteorites that scientists were unable to categorize. They simply didn't fit into the normal categories of meteorites. After the moon rocks were returned to earth, the moon meteorite pieces were finally identified. Later, the Mars Voyager made it possible to identify a meteorite as originating from Mars. The museum has a slice of the Mars meteorite that visitors can touch - imagine touching Mars! At the end of our tour, Ms. Moss brought out a number of meteorites that we were able to hold. They are HEAVY. Some of the iron ones had a very firm grip on a magnet. What a way to end the tour. How can you easily determine if the rock you found is a meteorite? A couple of quick tests: Is the rock unusually heavy for its size? Does a magnet stick to it? Does it look different from other rocks in the area? Only a scientist can determine if you truly have a meteorite, but the above indicators will rule out many rocks. If you are interested in additional information on the Monnig Museum or would like to see pictures of the various meteorites, visit the web site <http://www.monnigmuseum@tcu.com>. This is a fabulous place to take out of town visitors, children or grandchildren. The Hound's Tale, 04/10.





**A genuine rockhound
is a rock licker...**



STUDENTS YOUR LESSON FOR TODAY IS PYRITE

by: Alice Copeland

If you find pyrite and think its gold, you're not alone. The minerals' brassy color has fooled so many people that pyrite is known as 'fools' gold." But one shouldn't be too foolish and overlook this mineral. Once in a while, gold really is found in or associated with pyrite.

Pyrite also has a value of its own. The Olmec people, who lived in Mexico before the Aztecs and Mayan Indians, from about 1000 to 400 B.C., used pyrite for miners. Today, pyrite is used in industry because it contains sulfur, which is used to make sulfuric acid, The acid is important in the production of paper, rubber, chemicals and medicines.

You will find pyrite in the U.S., Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, Sweden, and South

Africa. It exists in nearly every kind of rock. That's why it's called a "persistent" mineral. You can strike pyrite with a hammer and sparks will fly! In Greek "pyr" means fire.

On a freshly broken surface, pyrite is closer in color to "white gold," or electrum-an alloy of gold and silver. But pyrites' beauty is not just in its metallic colors. Pyrite has beautiful shapes also. It forms simple cubic crystals, as well as complex twelve-face crystals prized by collectors!



I'm GETTING MY BAGS PACKED SO I CAN GO HUNT SOME PYRITE. WANT TO GO ALSO?



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH



FOREDOM STAND—A quick and easy way to suspend a flex shaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from your local hardware store. It attaches with a couple screws and only costs about \$10.

I use 1/2 inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle".

Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.



BROKEN DRILLS—Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, a quick fix is to dissolve the steel in a solution of alum or fresh pickle. The solution will not affect your silver or gold piece.

Alum is typically available from a food store. It's used to preserve some foods. Use about a tablespoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole.

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Please include the following attribution with each publication:

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon.

**EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM**



Name(s): _____ Anniversary _____ Birth Date: _____ Adult: ___ Jr. ___

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Newsletter via e-mail? Y ___ N ___

Special Interest in the hobby: _____ Date Paid: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone or Cell: _____ Dues Paid: \$ _____



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 all club meetings.

MONTHLY MEETING:

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

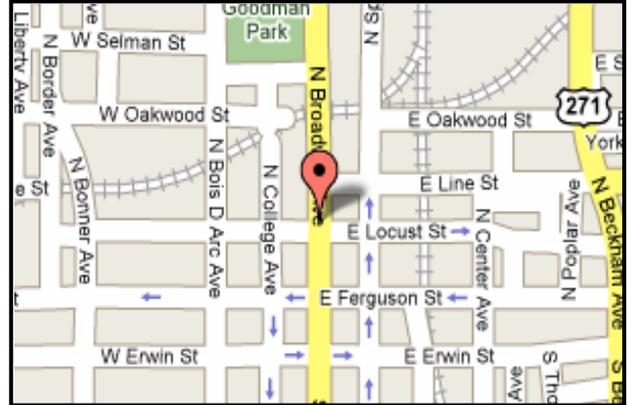
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place
308 N. Broadway
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

- Adults: \$10.00
- Juniors: \$2.50 with adult membership
- Family: \$20

NOTE TO EDITORS: Feel free to use contents for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.



NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below by the 15th of the month. Please, keep your address, phone and email information up-to-date, so that we can get the newsletter to you in a timely manner. Out-of-date information costs the club time and money in returned newsletters. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call, as that is the best way to reach me. Thank you... Susan Burch

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