

ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

VOLUME 45

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 7

JULY 2019

Upcoming Events

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

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

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

OCTOBER, 12-13
TRI-CITY G&MS
MAYBORN CIVIL CENTER
TEMPLE, TX

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

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President's Message

Welcome to all of our new members. It is really exciting to see the groups activities going on. Members getting excited about the lapidary, mineral, fossil, and gemology group. It is exciting to see some of the new members getting involved with the club activities and making suggestions and ideas to help make the club better. We are already in mid-summer and we will start planning activities to start preparing for our show in January. We have already had several members step up to volunteer to help with School Day. This is exciting because it takes a team effort to make it successful. We still have several club activities that need volunteers, such as a fieldtrip chairperson to coordinate and plan activities. We have a few volunteers who are willing to assist but cannot commit to the honor of the chairperson. Don't forget to submit your entries for the Rockhound of the Month. I would also like to thank Terry Roberts for the excellent presentation last meeting. We are working on planning some work days to work on the clubhouse. Please let me or any of the club officers which days you are available. We would like to schedule work days when we can get the most support out to help make it a successful event(s). I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Remember, stay hydrated and be safe while out in the heat.

Fred Mahaffey



Terry Roberts presenting his program on West Texas agates.

MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society met on July 1, 2019. President Fred Mahaffey called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. He asked the two new members to introduce themselves. Fred then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion, Terry Roberts seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Marcia Graham gave her report.

Announcements:

- Margaret Kilanski has taken over the Webmaster position. She asked for ideas and suggestions for making the website better as they will be upgrading to the latest software version. This is the opportunity to insert some new pages. Have your suggestions to her by **August 15, 2019**. Her email address is mlkilanski@yahoo.com. All requests will be reviewed. Contact her if you would like to help with the redesign especially a young member.
- Kinney requested articles for the newsletter. The Future Rockhounds of America program isn't something we normally take part in but if you know of a junior member who would be interested, let us know so we can get things set up.
- Darby Spears announced that on August 3rd, Roger Farish of the Dallas Paleontology Society has invited us to join them in Justin, Texas at property on Oliver Creek. The club has been there in the past and the water is crystal clear with ammonites visible on the lakebed. Justin is twelve miles north of Fort Worth.
- Terry reported that the Lapidary group meeting will be informal on July 13th at 2 pm. Bring projects and questions.
- Charles Creekmur wasn't present at the meeting to give a Mineral group report.
- Rick Walker spoke for David Russ in the Fossil group. The last meeting was a show and tell of things found in Jacksboro, Texas. by Jerry and Shelly Sudderth and David. A three to four-day

(Thursday to Sunday) trip is being planned to the Austin area in the next two to three weeks to look for fossils.

- There was no report from the Gemology group.
- The field trip for July 26th-27th is to the Oklahoma salt flats to collect hour-glass selenite. Rick asked if we could look for fossils at Lake Texoma, but the trip isn't to that area. The flats are thirty miles south of Kansas.
- Thanks, were expressed to Wayne Ward for mowing the yard.
- Keith Harmon is selling off everything because they are moving. Contact him if there is something you want. He will be available all of July.

Old business:

- The new projector has been installed.
- We need to start working on the other rooms in the building.

New Business:

- Randy Harmon reported that the Gilmer Rock Shop is going out of business and most things are 75% off.
- School Chairpersons – Brad Martin and Wayne Ward have offered to help.

With no further business to discuss, Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Terry made the motion, Gene Goar seconded, and the motion carried. Door prize tickets were drawn, followed by refreshments, and the program given by Terry on agates from West Texas.

Submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary



I will be offering a casting class soon. I should be announcing the date at the August 5th meeting. In this class we will be casting in broom straw and beans.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 14	15	16 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	17	18 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Oklahoma Field Trip 27 th – 28 th
28 Oklahoma Field Trip 27 th – 28 th	29	30	31	August 1	2	3 Oliver Creek Field Trip
4	5 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	6	7	8	9	10 Lapidary/Jewelry Group 2:00 pm
11	12	13 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	14	15 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	16	17
18	19	20 Fossil Group 6:30 pm	21	22	23	24

2019 Fieldtrip Schedule

July	Oklahoma	July 27 th - 28 th	Hourglass Selenite, Fossils
August	Northwest of Justin, Texas	August 3 rd	Fossils
September	Rock Swap - Clubhouse	September 21 st	Rock Swap, Cook Out
September	Duncanville, Texas	September 28 th	Septarian, Fossils
October	Mt. Ida, Arkansas	October 26 th , 27 th	Quartz Crystals
November	TBD		
December	Christmas Party	December 2 nd	

Note: Schedule is subject to change due unforeseen circumstances.

**I KNOW I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE,
BUT A FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON
NEEDED. IT'S TIME TO STEP UP
AND VOLUNTEER.**

A Look into the Past

by Julia Toombs

I started to rename the article for the month *A Look into the Future* because I want more bios. But even the bios lead up to today, so I kept the original title. Toward the end of June, I was disappointed because I had had no response to the request for information so we could get to know each other and our interests better. I thought “It’s only been 2 weeks. You have to give people time.” *Written* information is better because I incorrectly remembered something Terry Roberts had told me. He taught in Florida, *not* Galveston.

Kinney Polve took pity on me and took the time to send me his information.

Kinney was born in Utah but has spent most of his life in Texas. He became interested in rocks in his mid-teens while collecting them with his Dad. He was most interested in the lapidary aspect, but his Dad kept that part of the hobby to himself. He has lived in the Henderson, Texas area for more than 50 years. Most of his career time was in the automotive industry as a technician and service manager. He was able to retire at age 50. In 2008, Kinney and Vicky became full-time RVers for about four and a half years. This gave them the opportunity to visit all 50 states, some more than once, collecting rocks as they went. By around 2012, they had amassed quite a large collection but, he admitted, a large percentage were “leaverites.”

They started looking around for a nearby rock club, but internet searches provided no help. In 2013, he began buying a few pieces of lapidary equipment to start cutting and polishing some of the rocks found on their travels. One day in July 2013, they were driving down Broadway in Tyler and saw a bunch of rocks on a table as they passed the Discovery Science Place. After another internet search, they found ETGMS and attended the next meeting in August.

He was elected president for 2014 and did such a fine job that he was re-elected for 2015 and 2016. By 2017, he wanted to do other things. He and Vicky still RVed to return to the areas that had his lapidary rocks. He became Newsletter editor near the end of 2017 and remains so. He has been a member of the Quartzsite Roadrunners of Quartzsite, Arizona, and is a member of the Rollin’ Rock Club.

We know Kinney best for his lapidary work. He really likes cutting and polishing, whether it’s cabbing, faceting, or polishing slabs. He enjoys silversmithing and teaching classes when time permits. He isn’t really into collecting fossils or minerals but has been known to pick them up. He gives away the fossils. Most of his enjoyment comes from the hunt, just getting out there and looking for treasures; whether it’s lapidary rough, fossils, or minerals. Vicky is just as talented in her faceting, gem trees, and other projects. They make a great team. I suspect that a large portion of the rocks and other materials that we use for our craft projects for the shows have come from their travels.

I rode with them on the field trip to Missouri and Michigan last month. Kinney mentioned that the last time they were in Michigan was about 10 years ago. Kinney had gotten the names of people he could contact for help in searching the Upper Peninsula for copper, etc. Kinney states “I’m always interested in learning about the geology, as the knowledge always aids me in my search.” We learned about Michigan’s geology from two professors, one retired, and a geologist. We also had a local club member, George, as a guide. George learned of some new places to search, thanks to the geologist who was also a club member. Michigan Technological University, where the working professor teaches, has the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum—a marvelous place. On the last day of searching we went to Lake Superior in search of agates. Vicky was collecting driftwood here.

I’m glad that Kinney got his information to me when he did, because I hope that it will jump-start others to do the same. I included Vicky in his bio because she is a big part of his life. If both spouses are in the club, they can be in one column, unless they would rather be separate. I’d love more information on Vicky, but after 40 years of marriage, I think it is the same.



LAPIDARY GROUP

Nine members of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at the ETGMS clubhouse on July 13th. One member brought a very nice piece of Variscite that he had collected in Utah for everyone to admire. Several other members brought their latest jewelry and lapidary projects to show the group. Some of the members had questions about wire wrapping and cab making which Kinney and Terry answered. Terry also brought several bags of agate slabs from Australia, Argentina, and Mexico for the members to go through and make cabs for jewelry, and other projects. Everyone left the meeting just before it started raining.

Terry Roberts

GEMOLOGY GROUP

The Gemology Group will meet July 18th. Seems like it has been a long time (two months) since we've been together.

I'm thinking that we will look at inclusions. I'll bring a small microscope and some loupes along with some specimens to look at. If you have gems or crystals with inclusions you would like to share with the group please bring them. I'll also have some photos of interesting inclusions I've seen. Inclusions can help identify gems, determine origin, and tell us something about how the mineral was formed in the earth. Also, many can be pretty, nature's works of art.

Richard D. Armstrong

New Webmaster

Take the time to welcome Margaret Kilanski to her new position as webmaster. Our website, www.etgms.com is one of our club's most important tools, when it comes to attracting new members. It provides up to date info on club activities and other information that may be of interest to our members. Margaret will actually be building a completely new website. She is asking for input from our members. Please take some time to look at the current website and let her know what changes might need to be addressed. If there is something that you think is missing, and should be on the site, let her know. It is easy for one person to overlook something, that's why she needs your input. You can also send her your photos of projects, specimens, and field trips. Try to do this by August 15th. Don't forget to tell her what you think of the job that she's doing.

Kinney Polve

Thank you for your contributions
Fred Mahaffey, Julia Toombs,
Terry Roberts & Richard
Armstrong. It's the members
contributions that helps make a
great newsletter. The deadline
for the August newsletter is the
10th, so get those submissions in
early. I also need more junior
member participation.



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2020 AFMS Video/Slide Program Contest

Everyone was emailed a copy of the June AFMS Newsletter. If you deleted the email, here's the link: http://amfed.org/news/n2019_06.pdf. I wanted to put this in last month's newsletter, but I had to wait for the AFMS Newsletter to be posted on their website. I want to call your attention to page four of the newsletter. I know we have some talented members in the club that could put together a great presentation. It could even be a group effort. Not to mention, it would make a great presentation at our monthly meeting.



June Missouri/Michigan Field Trip

By Kinney Polve

We loaded up and hit the road around 6:00 am, Saturday June 15th. After a long day of driving, we made it to our motel in Eminence, Missouri. Originally there were six planning to attend the field trip, but in the end, there were only three that made the journey. Sunday morning, we met up with James Johnson at the Eminence Quarry at 9:00 am. Originally, we had planned to meet at 8 o'clock, but there were thunderstorms forecast, so we scheduled our start time a little later. Lucky the storms moved out of the area earlier than expected, leaving us with a nice day for collecting. It was a great time to schedule a field trip here, since they had blasted new material about ten days prior to our visit. The picking was good, and it didn't take long before we had plenty of calcite specimens. We had to limit the amount of material, as we had more collecting areas to visit during our trip.

The following day we headed toward Hancock, Michigan. After two more long days of driving, we finally arrived in the Keweenaw Peninsula, in U.P. Michigan. That evening I contacted Dr. Stanley Vitton (a geology professor at Michigan Technological University) and George Schriver (member of Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club) to schedule a meeting for Wednesday morning.

Wednesday morning, after some introductions and a plan of attack, we all headed to the university geology department. Stanley gave us a tour of the geology department, along with a few mineral specimens. It is easy to tell we were in copper country, all you had to do is look at the asphalt in the university parking lot. Stanley pointed out a piece of copper imbedded in the asphalt, then the search was on. And we all were looking to spot more piece of copper. He explained the

Above: Eminence Quarry. Below: Nice specimen still in the limestone matrix.



road surface material comes from the mining “Poor Piles”. This was the material that they separated out, being too poor in copper content to process. Next it was time to visit the A. E. Seamen Mineral Museum. The museum has one of the best mineral displays in the United States, it is a must see for anyone visiting the area. Since we were looking for copper, I sure didn’t want to miss seeing the nineteen-ton piece of float copper on display at the museum.

The next scheduled stop for the day was the Quincy Mine. The Quincy Mine Keweenaw National Historical Park is a great place to learn about copper mining and the geology of the Keweenaw Peninsula. We took the guided tour that included touring the hoist house and traveling 1800 feet into the mine. The mine has ninety-two levels, at a final depth of 6225 feet. The tour took us on the seventh level. Everything below the seventh level is now flooded.

After the tour, and dealing with a dead battery on my vehicle, Stanley led us to our first collecting sight. He familiarized us with the area, and left us to our collecting. You don’t have to travel very far to find a poor rock pile with some leftover copper. The hardest part about collecting in the Keweenaw Peninsula is knowing who owns the property, and if they mind if you collect there. It was nice having our personal guide to the area.

We met up again on Thursday morning to decide on the schedule for the day. First thing was a trip to Hungarian Falls. This is the perfect place to view the geology of the area and the contact zone. It did involve some hiking, due to the road being damaged from heavy rains. We were warned several times about how bad mosquitoes and black flies are this time of the year and luckily, they were only a small annoyance during our visit. We also visited the site of the remains of a stamp mill, from times long forgotten. Stanley guided us to a couple of poor piles, and we the rest of the day spent day collecting specimens with George.

Our Friday morning started out similar to the others, except Allan Johnson (retired geology professor at Michigan Technological University and member of Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club.) would be today’s guide. Allan oversaw the effort to map the three thousand plus mines throughout the state. He also served on the Boards of different historical organizations, which made him the perfect guide. We filled him in on the places that we had visited our first two days, then loaded up in two vehicles. I rode with Allan, and Vicki, Julia, and George rode together. We headed toward the Calumet Visitor Center, stopping to do a little collecting at the La Salle #2 mine on the way. After a brief tour of the ground floor or the visitor center, and a brief history lesson from Allan, we headed out to visit more mining and historical sites.

There’s not much left at most of the old mines, except for a little of the poor rock piles. Most of the old piles have been recycled into road surface material, and the shafts have been filled in. The copper in the Keweenaw Peninsula is unique in its native form, not like the copper sulfides mined in other places around the world. Allan explained the three different types of material that were mined to obtain the copper. It was mined in massive pieces - some weighing thousands of tons; dispersed copper - small pieces dispersed in the matrix; and brecciated material. Allan took us to locations that mined each of the different types of material to collect specimens.

The Cliff Mine was one of the earliest mines, producing pieces weighing over three hundred thousand pounds. These pieces had to be cut into small enough pieces to haul out of the mine shaft. This was done by hammer and chisel, and was a time-consuming process. Many times, these larger pieces were left for later, because they could get higher copper production mining the smaller more manageable masses. “Chisel Chip,” as they are called, can still be found today.



Above: Julia Toombs & Vicky Polve by a 19-ton piece of float copper. Below: The Quincy Mine.



We stopped for lunch at Eagle Harbor, and discussed hunting Lake Superior Agates the rest of the day. George's wife Nancy wanted to join us for collecting agates. After going back to the hotel and thanking Allan for his help, George picked up Nancy, and we all headed for Lake Superior. We didn't have any luck finding the famous Lake Superior Agates, but we did find a few agates on the shoreline. It was a wonderful place to end the day. It was a long drive back home, but it was well worth it. If you would like to learn more about the geology of the Keweenaw Peninsula and see some of the wonderful specimens we collected, then attend the August 5th meeting. The program will be about our field trip. We brought home plenty to share with our members.



Lapidary Time

A friend of mine who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, sent me some agates that he collected on a guided field trip sponsored by the Wasatch Gem Society. They went to several sites, located off Ruby Ranch Road a few miles south of I-70 where it passes by the town of Green River, not too far from Moab. The site is known for its Pigeon Blood and other varieties of Agate. I have been cutting the rocks and making some cabs to send back to him. I'll send you pictures of the cabs later.

What I was really interested in were the nodules that he sent me from the same sites. Some of them looked just like the ones we collected on the Walker Ranch and called biscuits. However, they were a little different. The first picture shows the nodules put back together as best I can after cutting them to see what they had inside. The half nodule on the far right was a result of me using the other half to make a cab for my friend. I only made one cab because the banding did not extend all the way to the surface. You will also notice that the nodule on the left has some dense brown moss agate in it that left many pits where the moss was undercut during polishing. Also, there are tiny red patterns next to the exterior surface that might be construed as near-plume structures, but that is stretching the imagination a little. I included the cab I made from the half nodule on the right at the bottom to show the banding.

I think my friend will enjoy getting these cabs and polished nodule halves since he doesn't have the capability to do any cutting or polishing yet (i.e. he has no equipment).

Terry Roberts



Lapidary/Jewelry Group – Meets on the second Saturday of each month, except December and January. The meeting time is 2:00 pm. This group's meeting is all about lapidary (anything to do with cutting and polishing rocks) and jewelry making. Terry Roberts leads this group. To have your name added to the email list contact Terry Roberts - terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

Mineral Group – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about minerals, how to identify them, geology and the locations they can be found. Topics are decided on by the group leader and the members. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. If you are interested in learning more about minerals, get your name on the email list for this group by contacting Charles Creekmur - calcite65@gmail.com

Fossil Group – Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. If fossils are your thing, or you just want to learn a little more about fossils, this would be the group for you. Topics about fossils, locations where they can be found, and geological time periods are all discussed in this group. David Russ heads up the group, and if you would like to have your name added to the email list, contact David Russ - dbruss50@gmail.com

Gemology Group Meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about gemstone and the identification of gemstones. Topics are decided on by the group leaders and members. The group is led by Richard Armstrong. If you are interested in gemstones, identification, where their found, or any other related topic, this is the group for you. To have your name added to the email list, contact Richard Armstrong - keltfire@msn.com

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Please send any original info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below by the 10th of the month. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call. **AFMS & SCFMS Newsletters will be emailed to members, as to not duplicate that information here, unless it needs to be repeated.** Board meeting minutes are not published in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact an officer on the Board. The information in this newsletter may be reproduced for nonprofit use, as long as credit is given to the source.

Check us out on the web: WWW.ETGMS.COM

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society: Is to promote; the study of Geology, fossils and the Lapidary Arts. The public is always invited to attend regular monthly club meetings.

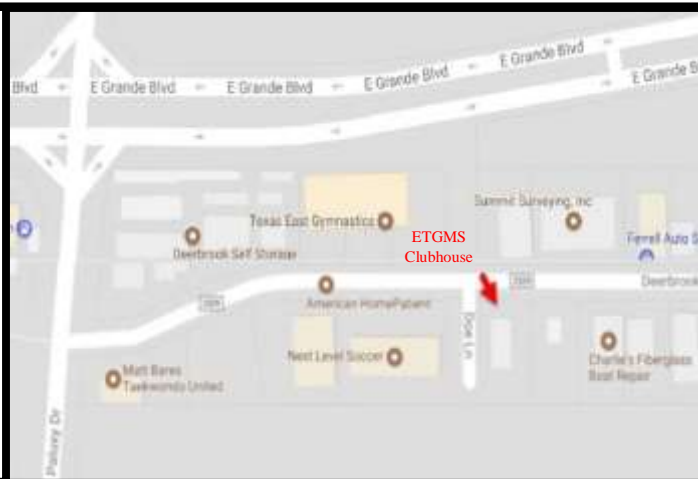
ANNUAL DUES:

Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00

MONTHLY MEETING:

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

WHERE: ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



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**SHOW SCHOOL DAY
CHAIRPERSON: NEEDED**

SECRETARY: Julia Toombs
903-882-5809 jltoombs@suddenlink.net

**FIELD TRIP
CHAIRMAN: NEEDED**

CHAIRMAN SHOW: Keith Harmon
903-795-3860 keithharmon19@yahoo.com

CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES

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