



ROCK ~ N ~ ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 4

APRIL 2017

Coming Shows, 2017

**APRIL 29-30
WACO, TEXAS**

Annual show

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Extraco Events Center

Creative Arts Bldg

4601 Bosque Blvd

e-mail: bennettje70@gmail.com;

www.wacogemandmineral.org

MAY 6-7

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Annual show

Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

1501 Mac Davis

e-mail:

walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org

Web site:

www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

MAY 27-28

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Annual show

Fort Worth G&M CLUB

Fort Worth, TX

Will Rogers Memorial Center

3401 West Lancaster

e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com;

fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new members who may be receiving this newsletter for the first time. As Spring weather has arrived you are all probably getting itchy feet to get out and do some rock hounding in the beautiful sunshine. I know I have that Rockhound Fever already. But, be cautious as the critters are starting to stir as well. From insects, to snakes we must pay attention to where we step and put our hands. I have already found two snakes in my yard last week. So as you are out rock hunting, I urge you to pay attention so your rock hunting doesn't turn into an ER visit. I want to also remind everyone that the Maker's Faire is this month, Saturday April the 29th at the Discovery Science Place. I would also like to thank Keith and Toni Harmon for their generous donation of the Rock Food Table to the club. It is also agreed that should the club ever decide that it cannot or does not wish to take care of the Rock Food Table that it would go back to them. I was thinking that because we have so many Junior Rockhounds now that we need to plan a special program for them when we are having our regular meetings. So I am asking, who would like to volunteer to work with me in developing a simple program designed with our junior members in mind? I have already talked with Kelly Ford about maybe planning field trips geared towards them as well, in addition to our regular field trips. Please, give me your thoughts and ideas.

Fred Mahaffey

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APRIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 6:50 p.m. on April 3, 2017. President Fred Mahaffey asked for visitors and new members to introduce themselves. There was one visitor and 2 new members. Fred asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as written in the newsletter. Kinney made the motion and Becky seconded.

Announcements:

- * Maker's Faire – Many have volunteered, but more are needed.
- *Lapidary Group – the next meeting will be Saturday, the 8th, at 2:00 p.m. at Terry's house. It will be an open forum. He asks that you bring your current projects.
- * Mineral & Fossil Group: Only 1 attended the last meeting. Another attempt will be made.
- * E-mails – See Fred at the end if you are not getting e-mails.
- * Field Trips – Kelly Ford and Darby Spears both volunteered to head up this group. They are well under way in doing research and planning. The next will be April 15 at the Crater of Diamonds mine in Arkansas. The one following will be May 20 at the Wagner Crystal Mine at Mt. Ida, Arkansas. It is 4-5 hours away and for \$26/person, you may dig for 4 hours and keep what you find. It is a working mine and hard hats and goggles are mandatory. They are working on arranging a trip to the Lindsay Ranch near Mason, TX (past Llano) in search of blue topaz.
- * April 22 – Wire-wrapping class at Kinney Polve's workshop
- * There will be a silver-smithing class at Kinney's in May.
- * Fred announced that Keith Harmon brought the Cathedral Amethyst that he is donating to the 2018 show. It was opened for those who wished to see it. Keith is also donating the Food Table items to the club. If others clubs wish it displayed at their shows, arrangements will be made for our members to take it, set it up and stay with it at all times.

Old business: There was none.

New business: There was none.

Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Kinney made the motion and Becky Whisenant seconded.

Door prize tickets were then drawn. There were 19 items. There were two silent auction items: a large

chunk of quartz crystals and a faceted Apache Tear which is natural glass.

The Program began at 8:05 p.m. It was on the formation of diamonds. Though they can look like crystals, they are smooth, not rough like crystals. They are pure carbon, but are not formed from coal – a common misconception. The meeting ended about 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2017.

Submitted by Julia Toombs, Secretary



I would like to have a contest and the winner will be determined by the most votes. The contest is for the best poem or limerick that is club related. Please submit your entries to myself and Susan Burch by April 30. The entries will be judged by the members at the May 1 meeting by silent ballot, and the one picked as the best (To be determined by your votes) wins a prize. All entries will be posted in the newsletter in upcoming months with credits given to the author. And I challenge all of you aspiring writers to submit articles to the newsletter. Fred Mahaffey

ENTER NOW!!





Project Submissions

At top right, Victoria Stone cabochons by Kinney Polve.

At mid-right, Bennetti Stone cab By Kinney Polve.

At middle, Sterling Silver Turquoise Spiny Oyster Heart Pendants by Kinney Polve

At mid-left, Sonoran Sunrise cabochon by Liz Ritchie Burford

(Photo courtesy of Liz)



CAB OF THE MONTH

At bottom-left, Owyhee Jasper Heart Cabochon by Kinney Polve. At bottom-middle, Queensland agate collected by Dennis Stanley who travels to Australia each year for several months during the Austral summer to collect

agates at Agate Creek in Queensland. Dennis said that this agate came from the "pink patch" in Agate Creek. He says that the area where he collects is far from any habitation and the camping along the creek is not very comfortable due to the heat, mosquitoes, and ticks. Suffice it to say that I am glad he endures the intolerable conditions to make these beautiful agates available to the less hardy and venturesome (like me) to enjoy. I hope you also enjoy looking at the agate cab. Cab cut by Terry Roberts.





LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP

By Terry Roberts

The April meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group was held at the home of Terry Roberts on April 8, with eight members and one guest attending. Several members brought projects that were admired by the others at



the meeting. John Schulz brought several pieces of turquoise and chrysocolla jewelry that he had completed. A turquoise ring and pendant set in sterling silver and a chrysocolla earring set in sterling silver are shown at left. Kinney Polve brought several cabs he had recently completed that consisted of different

types of composite materials. Terry Roberts also showed the group a collection of cabs that he recently completed, many of which will go to a rockhound friend who just had cancer surgery.

Richard Armstrong brought several rare faceted gems to the meeting and some different types of opal that he had recently acquired. He did a great job of explaining the origin and history of many of the fine gems in his collection.

Kinney asked the group if anyone wanted to attend the next basic wire wrapping class and did not have their name on the list. He and Terry decided the wire wrapping class will be held on Friday, April 21, starting at 9:00 A.M. at Kinney's workshop near Henderson. A weekday was picked because all of the remaining Saturdays in April are scheduled for field trips and a Fair to be held at the Discovery Science Place. [Another wire wrapping class will be held on a weekend in May for those who cannot attend this one.](#)

Kinney also asked the group if anyone would like to sign up for the Mini-Makers Fair to be held on Saturday, April 29. Several asked him what happens at the Fair.

Some of them asked about the "quick wrap" method for small rocks that will be taught to the kids at the Fair. Elsa Jerger explained the method that she introduced to the club several years ago and helped several of the members wrap a small tumbled stone that Terry furnished for the project.

[The meeting ended at 5:20 P.M. after much discussion on the projects exhibited to the Group. The next L/J Group meeting will be held on May 13 at Kinney's workshop starting at 2:00 PM.](#)



MAKER'S FAIRE AFTER HOURS

We'd like to invite all of our Makers (over 21) to attend the Innovation Pipeline Grand Opening starting at 6:30 p.m. on April 29! We're calling it the "Maker Faire After Hours".

The event will begin after a day of fun and innovation with the Maker Faire hosted by the Discovery Science Place. Come and see everything this new space has to offer, from 3D printing, laser cutting, screen printing, embroidery and more. There will also be music, demonstrations by local makers, food trucks and lots of ways for guests to learn how the Innovation Pipeline could help them reach the next level in their innovative endeavors.

They are looking for a few Makers who might be able to show off their skills that evening. If any of you are interested, please let me know. It would be really good for those of you who use lights in your projects.

Anyone planning to attend must pre-register. It's free, but they need a head count. Even if you can't attend, please pass along the information to your friends who might be interested. Here's the link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovation-pipeline-launch-party-tickets-31612904047>

Tyler Mini Maker Faire Committee

Tylermakerfaire@gmail.com

<http://tylermakerfaire.com/>



AFMS NEWS

AN INVITATION TO EXHIBIT IN THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL SHOW!

By Jim Brace-Thompson
2017 CFMS-AFMS Show Publicity Chair

On behalf of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, I invite you to exhibit in this year's national AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. Enter either a competitive or a non-competitive display—or one of each! Go to the show website at <http://2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com> to access and download entry forms by clicking on "Files and Entry Forms." You'll also find a direct link to the AFMS Uniform Rules manual. The deadlines are May 22 for noncompetitive entry forms and April 30 for competitive forms, so don't delay.

Exhibiting is fun! When displaying at a gem show, we not only get to show off our collections and handiwork but also to learn from others, seeing display techniques, getting advice, sharing tips, and forging bonds of friendship through mutual interests. There is a host of trophies for adult exhibitors, including a special trophy for nervous first-time Novice Exhibitors sponsored by the hosting Ventura society. Kids entering either competitive or noncompetitive displays can earn the Showmanship badge in our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and those entering competition can strive for both trophies and the AFMS Lillian Turner Award. Several years ago, Lillian Turner of Bethesda, Maryland, generously donated funds to support an award for the best junior's exhibit at the annual AFMS Show. The award consists of a certificate, a \$100 bond, and a mineral specimen and is presented at the Show Awards Ceremony. I guarantee that adults and kids who choose to display in Ventura will find the experience both rewarding and fun!

THINGS TO DO WHEN ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL SHOW!

By Jim Brace-Thompson
2017 CFMS-AFMS Show Publicity Chair

On behalf of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, I've been issuing invitations to attend and exhibit at this year's national AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. For those making such plans and traveling from across the country, I want to alert you to the many other things to do while in SoCal (short for Southern California)!

We have great fee digs up and down the state for rare and valuable gemstones and fossils, including giant shark teeth at Shark Tooth Hill near Bakersfield or several tourmaline mines near Pala in San Diego County. We also have world-class museums. For instance, one of the exhibits at the Show will feature minerals from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and another will highlight meteorites from the UCLA Meteorite Gallery. Both places are within easy driving distance of Ventura—so long as you don't hit the freeway during morning or evening rush hours (or any time in between). In SoCal, you'll also find the La Brea Tar Pits, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History with great fossil and mineral displays, and more. For those looking for attractions above and beyond rocks, Ventura County is also home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum, some 30 minutes from the Fairgrounds.

To find out more about these and other attractions, go to the show website at <http://2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com>. We within the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society look forward to hosting you at the national show and convention—and to helping you enjoy your visit to Southern California!

NO SCFMS NEWS THIS MONTH





AFMS NEWS

AFMS LAND USE POLICY

*1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

*2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

*3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

*4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

*5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

*6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

*7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

*8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

*9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them. I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings. I will leave all gates as found. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area. I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock. I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use. I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found. I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas. I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources. I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.





BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

CUTOFF WHEELS—Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS—When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chainmaking, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not to tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

BORAX COATING A MELTING DISH—A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated.



The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle.

When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat the pouring spout itself.

MAKING WIRE FOR FILIGREE—Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

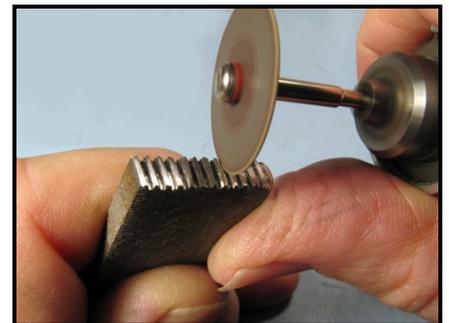
Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other. I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.

Please include the following attribution with each publication:

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

www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/ and www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835 www.BradSmithJewelry.com





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.

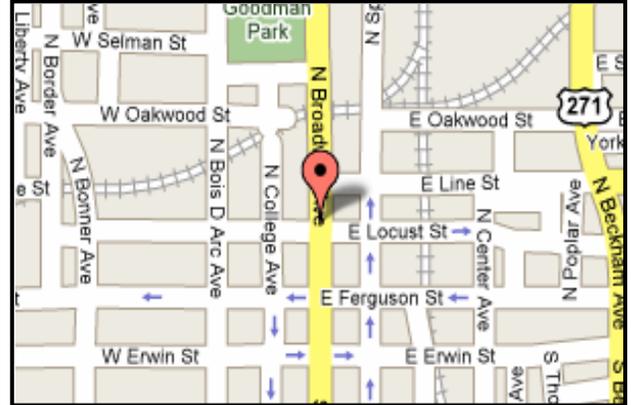
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place
308 N. Broadway
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

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

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