



ROCK ~ N ~ ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1

VOLUME 43

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 5

MAY 2017

Coming Shows, 2017

MAY 27-28, 2017
FORT WORTH, TX
Fort Worth G&M CLUB
Fort Worth, TX
Will Rogers Memorial Ctr.

JULY 1-2, 2017
GRAPEVINE, TX
Arlington G&M CLUB
Grapevine Convention Ctr.
1209 South Main Street

AUGUST 12-13, 2017
GONZALES, LA
Baton Rouge G & M Soc.
Lamar Dixon Expo Ctr.
Trademart Building
9039 S St. Landry Ave.

AUGUST 19-20, 2017
Bossier City, LA
Arklatex G & M Soc.
Bossier Civic Center

SCFMS CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 10-12, 2017
Humble, TX
Houston G&MS Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you are all doing well. I would like to thank Gene Goar for the excellent presentation last meeting on fossils and the history timeline that he gave with it. Hey, EVERYONE! It is not too late to get your request in for meeting topics and suggestions. Remember this is your club and I am here to serve you and I want to know what you want to hear and learn about. We had an excellent field trip last month to the Diamond Mine in Arkansas and I am still sifting through the gravel I brought back. I also learned that there are amethyst veins in one corner of the field that could be found and that was pretty exciting except I didn't find out until it was almost time to go and not really enough time to do some serious digging.

A HUGE! Thank-you to everyone (Especially Kinney and Vicki who got everything organized and setup) who helped with the Makers Faire last month it was a huge success and we actually got a lot of interest and a few new members and guests from it. On another topic, as the temperatures are starting to warm up, please make sure you are dressing for the weather and drinking plenty of water while out rock hunting. And don't forget the bug repellent!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting!

Fred

And the winner is...

And the Winner of the Poetry Contest Is???
Find out on page 6...





MAY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:55 p.m. on May 1, 2017. President Fred Mahaffey asked for visitors, new members, and guests to introduce themselves. There was one visitor, four guests, and three new members. Fred asked if there were any announcements, but there were none. The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Upcoming events:

- * Lapidary group – Kinney Polve spoke of future classes - glass enameling, knapping (arrowheads), and silver-smithing. There will be a \$25 charge for materials to silver smith.
- * Mineral and Fossil group – Kelly Ford has taken over this group. The first meeting will be at her house. Call her if you wish to attend and she will give directions to Arp.
- * Field trip to the Wegner Crystal Mine is still set for May 20 at Mt. Ida Arkansas.
- *Old business: There was none.
- *New business:
 - * Carolyn Davis wanted to know if there was anyone applying for the scholarship.
 - * Poetry Contest – There were two entries.
 - * Talk to Fred if you would like to present a program.

With no further new business to discuss, the business meeting was ended and tickets were drawn for the door prizes of which there were 15. The two silent auction items were a fossil coral and a blue faceted chalcedony. When door prizes were over, Randy Harmon had a grab bag of small items purchased from Gilbert and Sharron Barton in Chandler. There was something for everyone.

The program began at 7:40 p.m. Our presenter was Gene Goar with many fossils he has collected over many years from around the world. When he passes on, he has left instructions that they are to be donated to the club. His favorites are ammonites. Their age ranges from 500 million – 50 million years old. Earth is estimated to be 4.6 billion years old. He discussed hand-outs that were a geological time chart and fossils & dinosaur bones. Gene’s main reference on ammonites is a book by Neale Monks and Phillip Palmer. The largest ammonite ever found was 20 feet in diameter!! Gene has seen ammonites only 7 feet!! The ammonite is a close relative of the nautilus. One member said it resembled a cuttlefish. Gene passed around a common nautilus shell.

Other extinct critters discussed:

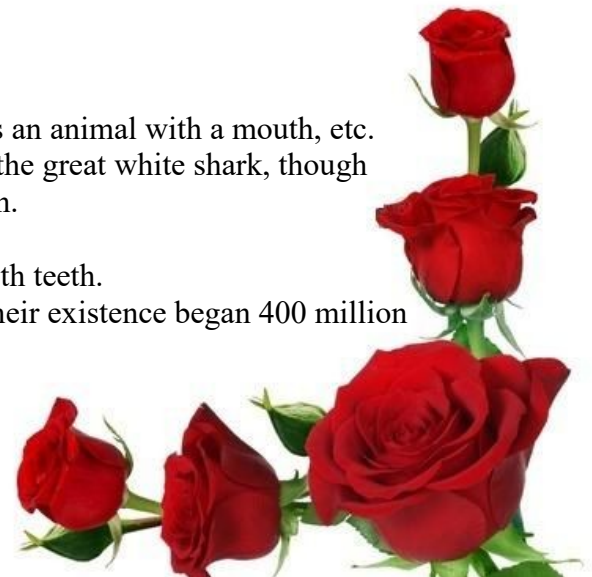
- * Mosasaur (a marine lizard) ate ammonites.
- * Pectins are scallops that are 10 million years old.
- * Crinoids used to be called a sea lily, but it wasn’t a plant at all. It was an animal with a mouth, etc.
 - Megalodon is 20 million years old (and is believed to be related to the great white shark, though only the teeth have been found.) Gene has a large tooth in his collection.
- * Sting ray is 50 million years old.
- * A mammoth stands 20 feet tall and is 30 feet long. Gene has mammoth teeth.

Gene’s second favorite fossil is the starfish of which he had several. Their existence began 400 million years ago.

His program ended at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2017.

Submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary





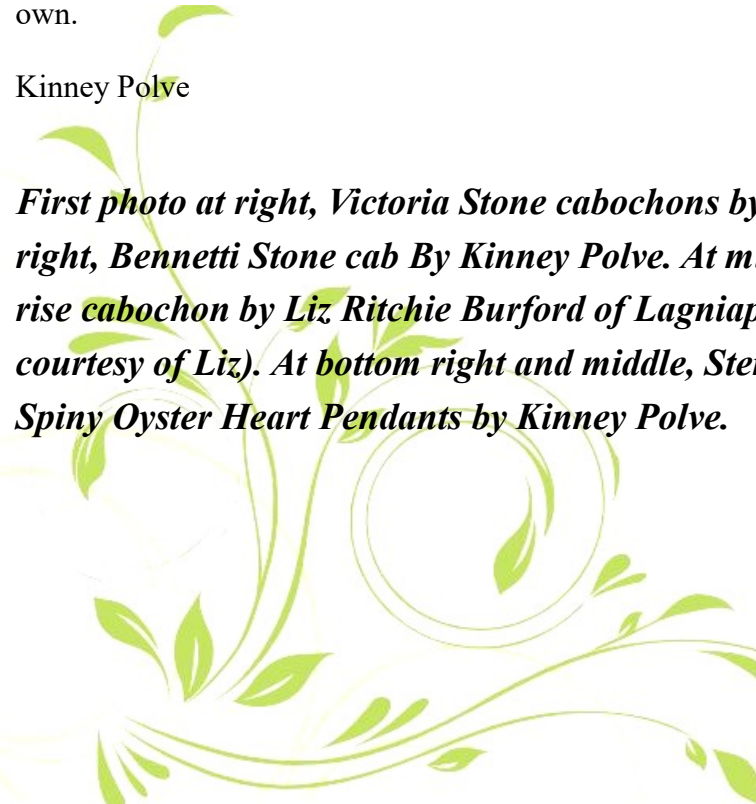
Due to human error the article to go along with the pictures published in last month's issue was missed. Here is the article and pictures in their entirety for your enjoyment. SB

MANUFACTURED LAPIDARY MATERIALS

With all the natural materials available to lapidary hobbyist, you may ask why anyone would bother manufacturing new ones. This is nothing new to the jewelry industry, I'm sure just about everyone is familiar with paste diamonds, Fordite, and other material of the past. As a lapidary myself, I always have an eye out for interesting material to cut into cabochons. There are many popular manufactured materials available for today's hobbyist, some still in production, and some no long manufactured. Tiffany Stone is one of the manmade materials that is no longer being made. The process used to create it died with Dr. S. Iimori. You may be lucky enough to find some, but it's getting harder and harder to locate this material. But there is good news, John Bennett has begun to manufacture a stone that is similar. It goes by the name Starburst Stone, but I call it Bennetti Stone. But don't think that it will be easy to get your hands on this material either. Being this is a new product, and is still produced in small quantities. I was lucky enough to purchase some from John back in January, while attending the shows in Quartzsite, AZ. Another material that hasn't been around for too long is Alumilite. Alumilite is made from recycled aircraft aluminum and colored epoxy resin. The aluminum webbing creates an interesting pattern in a cabochon. There's also Bowlerite, cut from the acrylic outside layer of a bowling ball. I find a lot of the composite materials to be interesting. Sonoran Sunrise is one of those materials, made from Chrysocolla and Cuprite. But I have to say that my favorite has to be Turquoise Spiny Oyster Bronze. In the process, the Kingman Turquoise is stabilized and combined with Spiny Oyster shell and Bronze. I have to say that this is a wonderful combination. There are many more beautiful manmade materials out there, so if you ever get tired cutting the same old stuff, you might want to try one of the manmade materials, or manufacture one of your own.

Kinney Polve

First photo at right, Victoria Stone cabochons by Kinney Polve. At mid-right, Bennetti Stone cab By Kinney Polve. At mid-right, Sonoran Sunrise cabochon by Liz Ritchie Burford of Lagniappe Lapidary (Photo courtesy of Liz). At bottom right and middle, Sterling Silver Turquoise & Spiny Oyster Heart Pendants by Kinney Polve.





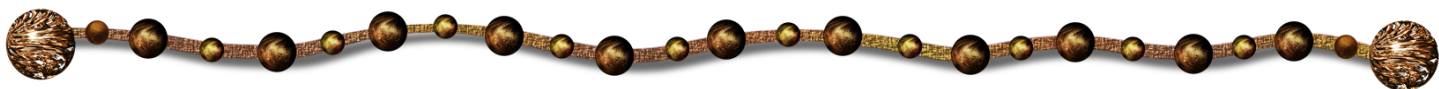
MEMBER HAPPENINGS



BEGINNERS SILVERSMITHING CLASS

We held our first Beginners Silversmithing class on April 19th. Elsa Jerger and Kelly Ford were the first members to complete the class. They spent the day learning about silver, tools and soldering techniques. It was an enjoyable day for all, and as you can see, they both did an excellent job with their newly learned skills making some beautiful sterling silver pendants.

Kinney Polve



Cab of the Month

I sliced one of the larger peanut agate biscuits that I collected in what is now called the Candy Store at the Walker Ranch south of Alpine, TX and found the small agate and jasper nodules (peanuts) in it were not "glued" together with quartz. I tried using some superglue to harden the crud between the tiny nodules, but the slab still broke apart while slicing it. I was able to save two of the peanuts that stuck together and finish cabbing them. I think I need to work on the polish some more to remove what appears to be some tiny scratches on the top nodule. My problem is that I can't see tiny scratches anymore until I get to the polish stage. Anyway, I thought you all would like to see the plumes in one of the peanuts in the cab I made. Usually, all you find in the peanuts is a tan or red-colored jasper nodule, but this is the first time I've ever found a plume agate in them. Terry Roberts





More Member Happenings

MINERALOGICAL GROUP MEETING

The ETGMS Mineralogical Group met on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the home of Kelly Ford. There were ten members in attendance.

Due to the beautiful weather, the meeting was held outside. Fellowship and discussion occurred around a stone table in a garden setting. The group decided ongoing meetings will be held at the same location and will continue to be scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise notified.

The group also decided ongoing meeting agendas will consist of a lecture, followed by discussion. We will then proceed to mineral identification (and dare I say, admiration!) of specimens brought to the meeting. Our agenda will be flexible and we will use all resources available, including our own experts, to educate ourselves on our rock hounding journey. The intent is to make these meetings as productive as possible, so having all of these experts in one room is an invaluable resource! Particularly for those of us just starting, like me!

The group then enjoyed a catered BBQ dinner from Rudy's Country Store before proceeding to watch a lecture on Classification of Minerals by Professor John J. Renton, PhD in Geology. This lecture was followed by discussion.

The group was also able to view some of the beautiful specimens Fred brought back from his last couple of rock hounding excursions... and some specimens Kelly brought back from the shores of Washington.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed the meeting and expressed they were looking forward to the next one. There were six other members interested in this group but were unable to attend this meeting. So we are looking forward to an even bigger meeting in June, which will be held on Tues, June 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. If anyone else is interested in joining us, please email Kelly Ford at kellyjeanford@gmail.com so they can be added to the emailing list for this group. Everyone is welcome to attend!



JEWELRY/LAPIDARY GROUP MEETING

The May meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group was held at Kinney Polve's workshop last Saturday (May 13). Because it was the day before Mother's Day and such a beautiful day, only 3 members of the L/J Group were present. Due to the small attendance, it was decided to open some of the geodes that Kinney and Vicky brought back from Quartzite last February. We also discussed and admired the silversmithing projects that two students made in the class on Friday, May 12. The meeting adjourned after discussions on future meetings. The next L/J Group meeting will be held on Saturday, June 10, at the home of Terry Roberts starting at 2:00 p.m.



JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE SEEN IT ALL, HERE COME THE POLYMORPHS!

Dr. Bridget Joubert, the CenLa Rockhounds

Over the years, Rock and Gem magazine has had articles on polymorphs (Greek – 'many forms')...i.e.: the same mineral in different crystal shapes! It is time to remind all the mineral collectors to read up and not get fooled. A really good example is Calcite: solution formation get us Dog-teeth crystals, then plates, then druzy, and of course massive sheets. Now add some heat, and this Calcite metamorphizes to Aragonite, with quite different crystals! Iron sulfide is called Pyrite--and we love to collect it--but it can also form flat crystals and is called Marcasite. This is not a very stable form and will "melt" away in humid conditions.



Oh yes, how about carbon--we treasure it as Diamond when it forms under extreme heat/pressure, but under low heat/pressure, it is a very soft mineral called Graphite. Now what if Ma Nature takes plain Al_2SiO_5 and adds heat/pressure, we can see three different minerals: Low H/P- Andalusite, Medium H/P - Kyanite, and High H/P-Sillimanite. Geologists have found that they can use these three minerals to determine how much heat

and pressure was used to make a particular rock layer. Put these minerals side by side, and one would have no idea that they were of similar composition! The list goes on and on for Polymorphs, so get the books out and 'bone-up' on the different types seen in each mineral family.

Via SCFMS May-June, 2017 newsletter.

Top right, Dogtooth Calcite; Middle, Pink Calcite Druzy; Bottom, Aragonite.



Poetry Contest Winner

ROCK HOUND
by Jerry Beare



Born into a family of limited means,
I worn-out the pockets of all my jeans.
Rocks were my first love and toy,
And remain today, my fondest joy.
Placed on hold by years of work,
I finally retired and cast off the yoke.
Found a club of kindred spirits and new found friends.
Dusted off my "finds" and joined in the fun, with chuckles and grins.
The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society is the name.
Sounded formal and distant but interesting all the same.
I made the call to Kinney and Fred,
And they melted away, my fear and all the dread.
I was welcomed with open arms, into the club.
A long distance to drive, the only rub.
I make all the meetings I possibly can.
A minor player in this amazing clan.
Rock, mineral, fossil or gem, each makes my heart race still.
My imagination soar and collection cabinets fill.
So here I sit, searching for a poetic close,
To express a love, an obsession, each one of us knows.





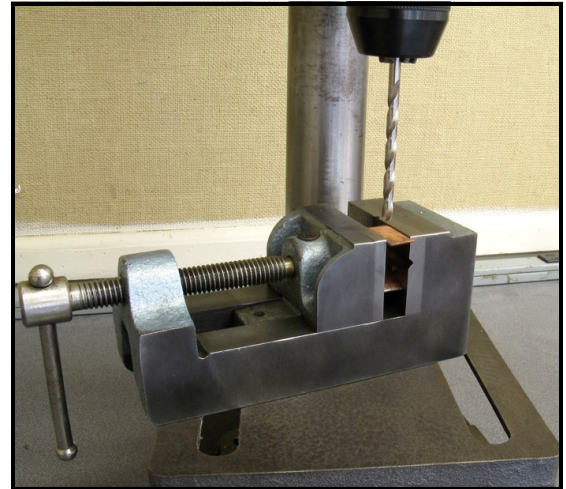
BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

DRILL PRESS VISE

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a work piece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the of risks of working with high power motors, use of larger drill bits, and higher heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like

- www.micromark.com
- www.msdirect.com/enco
- www.smallparts.com
- www.grizzly.com
- www.sears.com



DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains to make it a good material in your mouth cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. It ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.

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
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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.

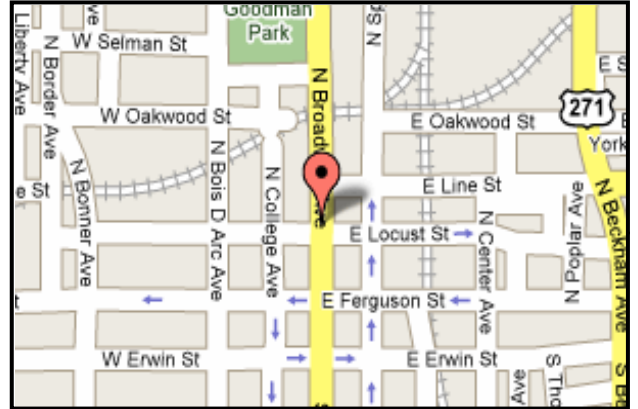
WHERE:

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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