AFMS

ROCK -N- ROSE

SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC

PAGE 1 VOLUME 34 TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2008

Coming Shows, 2008

JANUARY 26-27
Tyler, TX
East Texas Gem & Min. Soc.

FEBRUARY 16-17
Georgetown, TX
Williamson County G&MS.

FEBRUARY 23-24
Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake Gem & Min. Soc.

MARCH 1-2
Corpus Christi, TX
Gulf Coast Gem & Min. Soc.

FIELD TRIP INFO

19th of January, Rock shop visit in Bullard and shark teeth hunt in Jacksonville

Contact Laura Wilson for more details

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WE NEED YOU!!!

You are the crucial link to keep the hobby alive, yes that's right, your personal participation is needed. January 26th-27th are the dates of our annual show in 2008. These shows are one of the main fund raisers for our club. Without this, our dream of someday having a personal clubhouse to hold meetings, workshops and such in would almost be impossible. We are steadily working toward this goal. This necessitates the participation of as many club members as possible. Whether it be to help with the food for the Dealer's Dinner Friday night or to fill one of the many slots at the Front Desk, 'Wheel', Silent Auction table, Florescent Mineral's room or any other aspect of the show, everyone is needed. Think it's too hard or you would not be of any help? Nonsense!! Many aspects allow you to sit the whole time, or if that is not your gig, imagine the joy of a little child's face when their number on the wheel yields a great 'find'. Everyone's contribution is needed, yes there are those in our club who are like the backbone, but wouldn't it so much easier on everyone, if we took a part and relieved some of the burden of those few? Being like the muscles of the body, supporting and holding up that backbone. So, every member is important, please do your part to make this year's show a great success!

Susan Burch, Editor

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

At 6:50 p.m. on Monday, January 7th, of 2008, yes it's a new year, the monthly meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society was called to order by President Rip Criss. Rip opened the meeting by asking for a motion to accept the minutes as published in the December issue of the Rock-N-Rose. Welcomed guests, Toby & Bessie Hill, Caroline Sturrock, Carl McWilliams, Barbara Pickard and new member Pat Shell. Jeri Kitchens gave the Treasurer's report. There was no old business.

Under new business, Laura reported on the field trip to be held on the 19th, to begin at 10 a.m. at The Texas Store Discount Books, which also has a rock shop, in Bullard, TX. Then to continue to the road cuts just North of Jacksonville, TX, to look for shark's teeth at 11 a.m. The meeting continued with Rip mentioning that we still need help, particularly on Sunday the 26th for the show. Show work day is Jan. 12th at Don Campbell's place of work in Tyler.

Keith Harmon, spoke on show needs, including people to fill the display cases that will be set up in the lobby of the Rose Garden Center. WE NEED YOU!!! Those who work different portions of the show are encouraged to lead people into their table or display. In years past the Florescent display in particular had little visitation because of location. So draw attention to your particular aspect of the show.

Door prizes were drawn, along with a special drawing for those attending under 18 (there were 4, YAY!). Then a break for snacks and visitation.

Pete Keiser then gave the program on display stands. Not only for the show but for your private mineral collections. Anything from mirrors, rustic wood, Cholla cactus, or even a liquor bottle can be used as to your taste, to display rocks and mineral specimens. Details were presented on how to shellac, paint or hang different stands, along with suggestions on combining minerals together, gluing crystals to each hole of a Cholla cactus branch or using other rocks to show off certain specimens.

Submitted my Susan Burch, for Becky Whisenant

FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

Our February meeting program will held on the 4th. It will be presented by Gene Goar on the subjects of Fossils, Dinosaurs, and Mammoths. He will have several examples of fossils and will be sure to amaze us with is knowledge of the age of these fascinating items.

Fiber Optic Gems: What Are They?
By Bill Grime

Fiber optics was developed as a result of someone studying a piece of the mineral ulexite. Also known as TV stone, it is a hard, brittle, fibrous stone which when writing is placed underneath, will allow the image to appear on the surface of the stone. This led to the theory that if this type of fibrous material could be manufactured, it could be used in many different ways where image transmission is needed. Fiber optic cables were at first very slender and flexible, used in surgeries and in house-hold decorations. The manufacturing technology improved and soon manufacturers were spinning out miles of cable for a new application - data transmission lines. These lines can be up to two inches across. The cable consists of thousands of pairs of optic fibers. Each pair carries data for phone, computer, fax, etc. Since the sides of the cable are reflective, there is no need for insulation or shielding around each fiber, as in old phone lines. This translates to more pairs in a smaller space. For us in the hobby, this created one of the newest gem treasures - fiber optic cabs. In order to make a fiber optic cabochon, the cable scraps are first cut into small lengths. The cable is then either cut into spheres, or it is sectioned parallel to the length of the fiber. Once the slices are made, it is cut much like any other gem. Care must be taken however, to protect the ends of the cable from splintering, or catching cutting dirt, abrasives, etc. There is an interesting thing about fiber optic gems. If you look at them from a 90 degree angle from the eye of the gem, the gem will be transparent to light, maintaining its properties for light transmission.

~From Rockhound Roundup, 05/99, via Gem Cutters News 05/01,
Stoney Statements 11/07, Stone Chipper 01/08

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A Project For The Pebble Pups
Crystal Towers

INGREDIENTS:

2 pint jars
10 tablespoons Borax (washing soda),
measuring spoon and cup
hot tap water
1 jar lid
a strip of old towel (1 x 18 inches)
stirring spoon
and a cookie sheet.

This demonstrates how cave type stalagmites are formed.
Place two jars on a cookie sheet next to each other separated by the jar lid. Fill each jar with a solution of Borax and water - 12 ounces of hot tap water to each jar with 5 tablespoons of Borax in each jar. Stir until dissolved.
Put one end of the towel in each jar with a dip in the center between the jars so the solution will travel along the towel and drip in between the jars onto the jar lid. It will drop, one by one drop, and create a pillar of crystals. If you let it go long enough, the pillar will grow down from the towel and up from the lid until it meets in the middle, just like a real cave.
~Original source unknown, via Rockcollector 04/04, The Calgary Lapidary Journal 10/07, Stone Chipper 01/08

Ammonoid Fossils

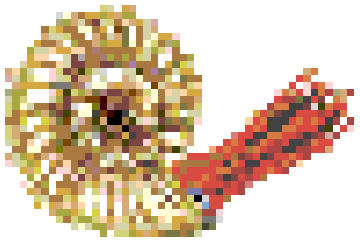
From Geo Kansas: www.kgs.ku.edu

Description: Ammonoids were squid like creatures that lived inside an external shell. In fact, ammonoids are relatives of the modern squid, as well as the octopus and chambered *Nautilus,* all of which belong to the class of animals called cephalopods. Ammonoids appeared in the fossil record during the early part of the Devonian Period, about 415 million years ago. They died out about 65 million years ago, during the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous Period that killed the dinosaurs and many other kinds of land and sea animals. Their fossils are common in sedimentary rocks around the world and are fairly common in the Cretaceous rocks of eastern Texas. They are also found in Pennsylvanian and Permian outcrops in the eastern part of the state.

Most ammonoids had shells that were coiled in the same plane (like a cinnamon roll). Others had straight or erratically coiled shells. The external surface of the shells were ornamented in a variety of ways, with different color patterns, ribs, nodes, or spines. Depending on the state of preservation of individual fossils, this ornamentation is not always preserved. Internally, ammonoid shells were divided into many chambers by a series of intricately folded walls. At times this folding was exceedingly complicated. The pattern of the folding can be seen in many specimens in which the outer shell has been removed. The junction between the wall and the outer shell produces a line called the suture, and these suture patterns are unique to each ammonoid species. Although paleontologists aren't sure why the walls were folded in such elaborate and complicated ways, the folds would have strengthened the walls, making them able to withstand increased water pressure at greater depths.

The size of ammonoids varied greatly throughout their long history on earth. Most Paleozoic ammonoids were golf-ball sized or smaller. At the height of their diversity during the Cretaceous, however, many ammonoids were larger, and some with diameters up to 10 feet must have been formidable predators. Because ammonoids are extinct, paleontologists look to the only shelled cephalopod alive today, the *Nautilus,* for information about how ammonoids may have lived. Like the *Nautilus,* most ammonoids were probably good swimmers, moving through the water by means of a kind of jet propulsion. Ammonoids were important predators in the ancient oceans, eating fish, crabs, and other shellfish. The discovery of fossil ammonoids with bite marks tell us that ammonoids also were preyed upon by larger vertebrates, such as fishes, sharks, and mosasaurs.

The diversity of external shell form in ammonoids points to a wide range of adaptations to the marine environment. Some ammonoids may have spent part of their life on the ocean floor, while others spent their lives passively drifting with the currents through the water column. Others, especially those with smooth, streamlined shells, were probably energetic



swimmers. The soft, squid like animal lived in the front chamber; the other chambers, called buoyancy chambers, were used to regulate the ammonoid's position in the water column. Because of their rapid evolution and abundance in the fossil record, ammonoids are extremely useful in correlating the ages of sedimentary rocks from different parts of the world. By matching ammonoid species contained within rock formations from different places, geologists can determine that the rocks were deposited at approximately the same time. In fact, because ammonoids evolved so quickly during the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods, their fossils can be used to establish zones that represent less than a million years. This is very fine resolution when compared to the 4.6 billion years of geologic time.

Although ammonoids are relatively common fossils in the Cretaceous outcrops of central and western Kansas, they are much less common in eastern Kansas, where smaller fossils occasionally are found in selected Pennsylvanian and Permian outcrops.

Stratigraphic Range: Lower Devonian to Upper Cretaceous.

Taxonomic Classification: Ammonoids belong to the Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Mollusca, Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea.

Sources

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Text by Liz Brosius, Kansas Geological Survey. Unless noted otherwise, illustrations by Jennifer Sims, Kansas Geological Survey; photographs by John Charlton, Kansas Geological Survey.

Exhibitors and Judges Seminar

The Austin Gem & Mineral Society, in conjunction with the South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies, will host an **Exhibitors and Judges Seminar** on Saturday and Sunday, **March 8th and 9th, 2008** here in Austin, Texas at the AGMS clubhouse on 6719 Burnet Lane. Every member of the AFMS is invited to attend. The fee is **$15** to cover the cost of refreshments and printing costs and will begin each morning promptly at 8:30 a.m. Topics to be covered include: preparing a display for exhibiting, AFMS uniform rules for exhibiting, how exhibits are judged, and what makes a good display. Lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday for a small donation. It will likely consist of salad, sandwich, chips, and fruit. There is a refrigerator for personal lunches and nearby restaurants for those who want to dine out.
For additional information and copies of the application form, please go to our website at *www.austingemandmineral.org,*
email *general@austingemandmineral.org* or phone 512- 458-9546.

To register, send in your fee along with your name, address, phone, and e-mail to:

AGMS, Attn Exhibitors & Judges Seminar
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, TX, 78757

Also please indicate if you are primarily interested in learning to judge or exhibiting, as well as if your primary interest is in fossils, minerals, lapidary, jewelry, or other.

~Susan Postlethwait, 2007 Show Chair, September Stone Chipper

I will also include this in the February issue of The Rock-N-Rose, SB

WHAT EQUALS 100%

IF: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K is 8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11= **98%**

K-N-O-W-L-E-G-D-E is 11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = **95%**

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E is 1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = **100%**

C-O-O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N is +15+15+16+5+18+1+20+9+15+14 =**131%**

~The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 04/06, via Stone Chipper 09/07

So do your part, by using your KNOWLEDGE and doing your best to keep a great ATTITUDE, as your COOPERATION is needed so that this year's show is not too much HARDWORK for any one. And don't forget to enjoy yourself!! SB

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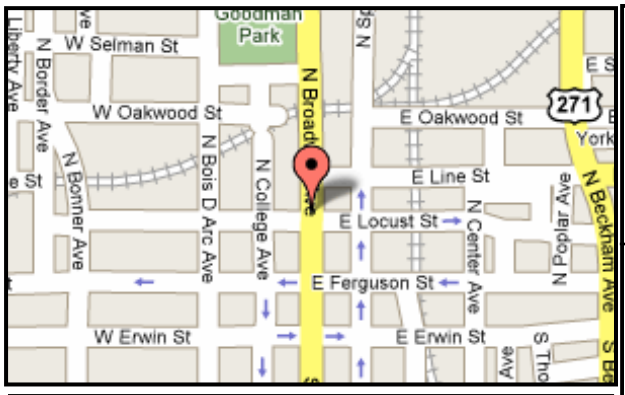

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Feel free to use contents and graphics for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts.

The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

Annual dues are $10.00 for adults and $2.50 for juniors.

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