



# ROCK-N-ROSE



PAGE 1 VOLUME 35 TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2009

## Coming Shows, 2009

### January 24-25

Tyler, TX  
East Texas Gem & Mineral Society  
Rose Garden Center  
Keith Harmon, (903) 581-4068

### February 21-22

Pasadena, TX  
Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
Pasadena Convention Center  
[www.hawkwindnovels.com/  
page2.html](http://www.hawkwindnovels.com/page2.html)

### February 21-22

Plainview, TX  
Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society  
Ollie Liner Center  
[jmmatlock@suddenlink.net](mailto:jmmatlock@suddenlink.net)

### March 7-8

BIG SPRING, TEXAS  
Big Spring Prospectors Club  
Howard County Fair Barn  
Jerald Wilson (432) 263-4662

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## PRESEDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy! January's program on volcanoes was quite interesting and Don left us all wanting to know more. Looking forward to the next segment of the series to be shown at the February meeting.

It's not too late to help out at the show. If you haven't signed up yet you can still call Keith or just show up (we'll definitely find a job for you). Mailed out over 3500 notices and folks made some really nice items for the Wheel and the Silent Auction at the workshop at Don's place (thank you for allowing us to use the facilities), Hope to see you all at the show!

## AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE

Again this year, the American Federation of Mineralogical Society is sponsoring a raffle, to benefit the Endowment Fund. This raffle consists of donated items from different individuals and Gem Clubs, that work with the AFMS. This fund raised over \$8000 last year and again this year, 2009 there will be a raffle of items that are donated. This raffle will take place at the AFMS Meeting and Show held in Billings, Montana. As I understand it now, each one of the Federations in the AFMS will be entitled for one item, for sure, as the ticket stubs that are turned in from each Federation will be put in a box and one ticket drawn. Then the items will be numbered and one number will be drawn and that item will go that Federation winner.

After the seven Federations have been drawn, all the ticket stubs will be put in a box and tickets drawn and then they will draw for an item number and that winner will receive the item numbered. This is a much better way of distributing the items to the winners. Each Federation will receive at least one winner.

I have taken on the chore of getting items, donated to the AFMS Endowment raffle and selling tickets for the drawing. The tickets will sell for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. This is the same as in the past years. The donated items should be in the range of at least \$50 and on up to whatever. I have heard of two items, donated and one is valued at \$200 and the other one at \$150.

If you or your club would like to make a donation, let me know and I will accept it for the AFMS Endowment Fund. I will see that it gets to Billings, Montana. If you would like to have some tickets to sell or if you would like to buy some tickets, let me know and I will make them available. I will send you a ticket or send you some tickets, to be sold.

Please contact me at: [bill@rockfoodtable.com](mailto:bill@rockfoodtable.com) or phone - 361-387-5190 or snail mail - 610 Wright Street, Robstown, Texas 78380-3815

Thanks and hope to see you at a Gem Show this year.

Bill Pattillo--

Bill and Lois Pattillo

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## January Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society January meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:00 P.M. There were 20 members and one guest present.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting, as published in the Rock-N-Rose Newsletter, was made by Keith Harmon, seconded and unanimously approved by the members.

Jeri Kitchens, Club Treasurer, gave the monthly financial report. She also noted that Annette Cunningham had been at the meeting earlier but had to leave and asked Jeri to give a report on the dinner the club provides for vendors the night before the annual show opens. Annette said that enough volunteers had signed up for the individual dishes to cover the entire meal and she wanted to thank everyone in advance. Club members who bring food for the dinner are invited to stay and eat with the vendors and help extend the club's welcome. Jeri also reminded everyone who signed up to bring food that they should bring enough for 15 diners. The club provides the main course and members bring side dishes, drinks and deserts. Keith gave a report on the upcoming show and asked for members to please sign up to work, especially needed are volunteers to work the front desk. It was noted that last year when there were two desks, with two people each, the crowd moved much faster and with less congestion. Keith referred to the sign up sheets on the back table and reminded members that if enough people did not sign up to fill up the time slots, he would be making phone calls. The pre-show work day was set for Jan. 10 at Don Campbell's office on American Legion Road in Tyler. Members were reminded of the set up day on the Friday before the show and volunteers asked to be at the Rose Garden at 9 a.m. on Jan. 23. Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. Volunteers will be needed for the show "breakdown" at 5 o'clock on Sunday. The Tyler Telegraph newspaper will cover the work day.

There were no club field trips in December due to the holidays and the possibility of encountering hunters during deer season. Rip reminded the audience of the silent auction item, an ammonite pair ready for a jewelry setting. Drawings were held for 6 door prizes and a short break was called for refreshments and a chance to visit the sign up sheets.

The evening's program was a video presentation on volcanic activity by John Renton, from the series, Great Courses from The Teaching Company. Don Campbell led a discussion following the showing and answered questions. Another segment on volcanoes will be shown at a future club meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. by the president.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary

Note from the new Club Secretary: I am honored to be elected Secretary of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society and will strive to live up to the standards set by Becky Whisenant in the last 2 years. While we fulfill the requirements of reporting "club minutes" it has been our tendency to give more details about each meeting than the bare bones of what happened and at what time. We are the "East Texas" club and many of us drive long distances to attend meetings and sometimes just can't make it. I hope you will allow me the pleasure of writing enough words so that when you read the minutes, you will feel like you really know what went on. But we would really rather see your smiling face at the meetings, so please make an effort to come – and bring a friend. Becky and I have been carpooling for years and it makes the long miles go by faster and a lot more fun. And, remember, **we still need a Field Trip Chair for 2009. If you can't volunteer for the entire year, maybe you can put together a special trip.** Many members have obligations and can't go on overnight or extended trips but day trips can be great fun. Rip has led several very popular trips to Mack Creek near Elkhart, TX and Laura taught us the finer points of shark tooth hunting just north of Jacksonville. Know of a great display at a nearby museum? Please, share it with us.



## FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

“Part II, Volcano's”, of the Geology DVD series

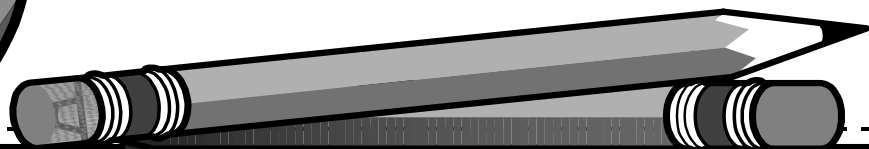
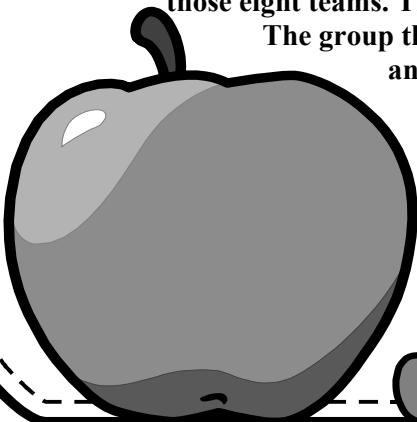
### Back to School Again—Oak Hill Elementary

Eight weeks before Gem Capers 2008, three of us began attending school again! Susan, Ivy, and Wing went to Oak Hill Elementary School to teach something about rocks to Cynthia Thomas's 4th grade science classes.

We told them about the three basic types of rock: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. Each of our weekly sessions was devoted to a different subject. We explained how to differentiate rock vs. mineral. There were hundreds of pounds of exquisite specimens passed around the class to help the students understand the geology. The State Rock of Texas, The State Gemstone of Texas, and the State Gemstone cut were each carefully explained. We started by demonstrating how to tumble polish rocks, showing them the tumbler, the rough rocks, and the grit. The first week we ran the tumbler for a few minutes so the students could see the action. Then each subsequent week, the cleaned, partially tumbled rocks were brought in so the class could see and understand the progress. At our last meeting, when the rocks were fully polished, they each made a piece of jewelry from the rock they had selected. After a few weeks the class was divided into eight groups of five students each. There were eight poster subjects for the groups to work on: Volcanoes, Hydrologic Cycle, Metamorphic Rock, Igneous Rock, Sedimentary Rock, Rock Cycle, etc. One young lady was very insistent that she be working on the volcano poster. The reason became clear the next week when she showed us snapshots of her and her family at one of the erupting Hawaiian volcanoes from the previous summer's vacation. The five students on each poster had to discuss, evaluate, and cooperatively decide which of the many items they could place on their poster. When completed, each of these posters was replete with data, pictures, explanatory text, and vivid colors. It was amazing to realize how much I was learning while coaching those eight teams. These posters were presented at Gem Capers 2008 for the public to see.

The group that did the volcano poster also composed a song. After much cajoling and persuasion, they sang it at our show. The attending crowd of customers was very quiet during that performance. Each of these students sent us a thank you letter. This was a great bunch of kids. Being with them was very fulfilling.

*~Wing Evans, School Programs; Via Stone Chipper 01/09*





## **Gemstone of the Month**

### **Rainforest Jasper**

By  
Les Connally

It seems that more and more gemstones are coming out of the area of Queensland, Australia. Especially around the area of Mt. Hay. In my September 2008 I mentioned that Ribbonstone, came from North Queensland. The area of Mt. Hay (an ancient volcano) is the source of the Rainforest Jasper, as well as deposits of the most beautiful green Chrysoprase. Rainforest Jasper is quite a misnomer as the area around Mt Hay is a far cry from a rainforest , also it is technically not a Jasper, but a Rhyolite that has become highly silicified. It really gets its name from the predominate green color which pervades the material.

This material is somewhat akin to thunder eggs, also found in the area. In that the magma that is responsible for the formation was very heavy sinking much lower than the lighter magma above. This permitted slower cooling of the magma allowing the various colored phenocrysts to form together. The coloration of these phenocrysts vary significantly from green, yellow , red, orange, blue, cream, white, and brown. These phenocrysts vary in shape to spherules or orbs to irregular shapes. This gives the material very unique patterns, providing beautiful gemstones. These are showing up in the hobby as beads, cabs, and, bookends just to name a few. This material was first brought to market in 1986 by Bert Kayes, who had been mining chrysoprase nearby since 1963. <sup>1</sup> While the material is quite new to the hobby it is gaining popularity swiftly. The material that I have worked has turned out well.



Rainforest Jasper  
Photo by Les Connally

Reference

[Http://www.ozarkrockexchange.com/ore\\_features/2006/rainforest.shtm](http://www.ozarkrockexchange.com/ore_features/2006/rainforest.shtm)



### Rockhounding report for Sonoma Coast/Russian River

Okay, our vacation is over, and I'll report back. Please note that this wasn't a rock-hounding vacation, per se. My wife is not obsessed like my son and I are, so I tried to keep the rock-hounding to a reasonable level (although, I think she and I have different definitions of what that may be). That said, what we did was more beach-combing integrated with other activities than actual hard-core rock-hounding.

Anyway, here goes:

We camped at Casini Ranch Family Campground in Duncans Mills (about 4 to 5 miles east of Jenner). Our campsite was right on the river (about 50 yards from the water at this time of year), and it was a primo spot. For about 25 feet up- and downriver, there was a far better selection of stones than most other spots for about a mile in either direction (most of what we saw in the other places was composed or dull grey leaverites [although there was probably some good stuff under the silt-and-dried- algae encrustation] ). Near our campsite, and in one other spot (near the day-use area) we found lots of jasper, chert and some jasp-agate, mainly red, yellow, orange and green. Much of it is pretty basic and nicely veined with quartz, but there is also some heavily brecciated and some orbicular material (some of this was pretty subtle). Some pieces are a pretty decent size, say a half-pound or so. I found two small pieces that are more colorful poppy-like jasper. Other than that, I found some blue-grey-green material that looks quite fibrous in nature. The fibers, however, are not aligned. Rather, they resemble a ball of string. Glaucothane? I also found two small pieces of grey stone that have small roughly cubic or hexagonal, sapphire blue crystals embedded. Also glaucothane, I think.

We collected a little bit daily.

On Monday we wanted to go to North Jenner Beach for the eclogite outcrop. Alas, no dogs are allowed on the beach, and it was too warm to leave them in the car. We went to the Sonoma State Beach at Russian Gulch instead (just a mile or so north). Getting to the actual beach involved a half-mile or so hike through the dry creek bed (quite manageable for humans in flip-flops and two wiener dogs). The bed contained several boulders of a pale green color that are porous, but rather heavy for their appearance and a great deal of medium greyish basaltite(?) -- a gritty, gabbro-like material containing a large amount of what may be small mica or leucite flakes which give these rocks a silvery glitter.

The beach itself was quite pebbly, composed mainly of the above-mentioned mica-heavy material, some of the "stringy" glaucothane, an assortment of jasper and chert and various greenstones. My favorite jaspers are the subtle red, orange and brown orbicular pieces and some deep red ones with veins of mint to olive green.

About half an hour before we left, a wave deposited 3 pieces of (what I am pretty sure is) jade on my foot. I found another two 10 minutes later. All are in the 20-30 gram range and dark green to blue-green. One is a nice botryoidal piece; others look like they may have been botryoidal at one time but are now worn down. Positive ID help would be appreciated. The stones cannot be scratched by steel. They are lightly pitted (because the entire beach is more pebbly and rocky than sandy, perhaps?) and thus don't feel completely greasy, but I would say waxy is a good description where they are smoothest. All of the pieces have a salt crust when dry (nothing else I collected really does). I was able to polish away the crust with a cloth and some Howard orange oil on the two pieces where I tried to do so. The pieces are also grooved, leading me to think they were once distinctly botryoidal. Some of the grooves contain black and sparkly apple-green encrustations. Please contact me if you can help. I also have one around two-pounder that I am even less



## Rockhounding Report Cont'

certain about. Interestingly, the "stuff to do" literature at the campground does list jade-hunting for the Sonoma Coast - I'd never heard of it before. Is there such a thing as botryoidal serpentine in California?

Tuesday and Wednesday, we went to Wright's Beach (thanks Kim for the suggestion! ). The beach is about 5 miles south of Jenner, and is sandy with gravelly beds. Here also, we found lots of jasper, chert and greenstones as well as milky quartz and granite pebbles. Most of the jaspers and cherts are either brecciated or orbicular, including some kinradite(?); I also found a fair amount of picture jasper and the red-and-green jasper I found at the Russian Gulch Beach. There are also some pebbles that are a greyish blue-green color with thin black and rust-colored veins. The pebbles are harder than steel, mostly smooth with some slight pitting, and feel greasy to waxy. I'm not sure what they are, but they are quite attractive stones.

Agates were to be found, but definitely not as plentiful. I found maybe a half-dozen clear agate pebbles (pea-sized) and also a half-dozen similarly sized light orange carnelian, plus one that is thumb-nail-sized. My son also found a few. Mostly, though, they were chips that would be more accurately described as very large grains of sand. Overall, though, I would say that it was enough to make me come back at a more appropriate time of year.

The surf here is rough and dangerous. They actually hand out fliers at the ranger station stating that 126 people have drowned on this beach as of 2006.

Saturday we went to Salmon Creek Beach.

This beach was initially disappointing: too sandy -- none of the cool minerals listed on Mindat for Salmon Creek appear to make it to the Beach intact.

Later discovered some jaspers, etc in the surf line, where they remained regardless of what the tide was doing (very heavy backwash in the surf here). Collecting these pieces proved to be somewhat akin to spear-fishing for hyperactive minnows: optical bending, small pieces, would not hold still, and just when you think you have it, it moves in an unexpected direction (or you get nailed by a sneaker wave, if you're not careful). Still, A FEW nice specimens were obtained.

I also found some gritty pinkish gabbro or something like it. Again, I'm not entirely sure. For driftwood enthusiasts, there is quite a bit of this on the beach (and plenty of kelp).

Well, I think that's it. I hope it helps or interests someone.

Stephan Dillard

Via a Rockhounding online newsletter the editor subscribes to. Even though this is from CA, I thought it held an interest to be shared. SB



## Pebble Pup

You pack a boy into a car  
And head for distant lands,  
Searching for some agate rare  
With lovely colored bands.  
The boy leaps from the auto  
With vigor and with glee,  
Dashing o'er the landscape  
Running wild and free.  
He gathers wood and bits of stone  
And never seems to care  
If any piece is worth a "whoop"  
Or should be left right there.  
He gathers pounds of country rock  
And packs it to the car,  
Then wanders off to the distant hill  
To see what lies afar.  
When the day afield is over  
And the fire is burning low  
He snuggles there beside you  
To watch the embers glow.  
A coyote wails on a distant hill  
The moon is coming up.  
Tomorrow he'll be a rockhound  
Tonight, he's a "Pebble Pup."

*~By Wm. D. Thompson, In NFNS Directory, via Rockhound Gazette, 2/08, The Roadrunner  
5/08 via Stone Chipper 08/08*



## Rock News

The famous "Wall Arch" in Arches National Park, Utah, fell sometime just prior to August 5th, 2008. Its demise was attributed to the same forces that shaped it, erosion and time. The arch was 71 feet wide and three stories tall.

*~Submitted by Susan Postlethwait, reference: <<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/08/080811-arch-photo.html>>; via Stone Chipper 08/08*



### CLUB OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Robert (Rip) Criss 903-922-2856  
P.O. Box 4243  
Palestine, TX 75802

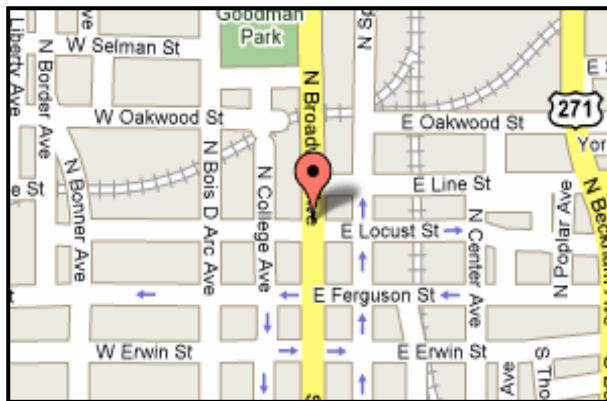
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Annette Cunningham 903-849-6314  
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**SHOW  
CHAIRMAN:** Keith Harmon 903-581-4068  
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**THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT 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.

Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor 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.

Thank you... SB



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