



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 36

TYLER, TEXAS

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OCTOBER 2010

Coming Shows, 2010

OCTOBER

22-24, AUSTIN, TEXAS
GEM CAPERS 2010
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Palmer Events Center

NOVEMBER

6-7, AMARILLO, TEXAS
Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Soc.
Amarillo Civic Center

6-7, MIDLAND, TEXAS
48th ANNUAL SHOW
Midland Gem & Mineral Society
Midland Center

12-14, HUMBLE, TEXAS
57th ANNUAL SHOW
Houston Gem & Mineral Society
Humble Civic Center

DECEMBER

3-5, EL PASO, TEXAS
El Paso Mineral & Gem Society
El Maida Auditorium

11-12, DERIDDER, LOUISIANA
SCFMS REGIONAL SHOW
DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society
Beauregard Parish Fair Exhibit Hall

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Meeting started out less than perfect because yours truly wasn't there on time to start it. I was on the side of the Loop, inside the engine compartment of my truck, cleaning some really nasty looking gunk out of the fuel filter. Got it cleaned out and truck re-started and finally made it to the meeting in time for the auction. Business meeting and elections had already been held. Which is a good example of why I love this group of folks. Instead of sitting around waiting for something to happen, folks took charge and moved forward with what they knew needed to be done. I've seen this same "can do" spirit in action at the yearly show. I thank each of every one of you for helping to make this ETGMS society what it is. A special Thank You to Susan Burch for the outstanding work she does in getting the monthly newsletter together (not easy since she has to ride herd on me for this message, compile everything, get it printed and then mailed). I look forward to getting that e-mail every month. Next time you see Susan, please take the time to let her know how much her contribution to the society is appreciated.

We had a good auction with some nice specimens provided and purchased (again great job members). Next month's program is supposed to be about Precious Metal Clay (PMC) and I'm looking forward to it. Hay season is just about over and I'll have more time to go to workshops to learn lapidary skills. Again, if you know of a suitable building in the Tyler area for the society to establish a workshop please let me know. We really need to get a workshop established to further our goals of educating folks in the lapidary arts. Hope to see you at the next meeting. Until then, good luck and stay safe.

Rip Criss



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by Keith Harmon at 7:07 p.m., October 4, 2010 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX with 22 attendees. Keith held the floor after arrival of President Rip Criss as Keith was to be auctioneer for the evening.

Motion to accept minutes of the September 2010 meeting as published in the Rock – N-Rose newsletter was made, seconded and motion carried. Jerri Kitchens, club treasurer, stated that there have been no changes in the Club’s financials since her report at the September meeting. There was no old or unfinished business brought before the members and no announcements.

Keith announced that he and Charlotte will have a rock yard sale Oct. 30 and 31 at their home.

Keith is the annual Club Show Chairman and announced that again this year the show will be 3 days, with the Friday being a Kids’ Day. Tyler ISD will participate and the number of kids bussed to the Tyler Rose Garden will be much larger than the first Kids’ Day at the 2010 show.

Election of Club officers began with a motion from the floor to have the current officers stand for another year, was seconded and carried by unanimous vote. Keith also explained insurance carried by the club and reminded everyone of the annual South Central Federation meeting the second weekend in December.

Following a short break for refreshments, the annual auction was presided over by Keith. There were rocks, minerals, jewels, jewelry, polished stones, fossils and more – items donated to the Club to be auctioned off and the proceeds to go into the Club treasury.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

To be announced at the program



CLUB MEMBER NEWS

Becky Whisenant’s father has passed away. We send you our love and thoughts.

Please, keep her and the family in your prayers.

Mineral of the Month (Or Rather Micro-mounting)

By Steve Weinberger

October is our auction month, so instead of a Mineral of the Month, I thought I would share some information about one of the lesser-used divisions of the mineral hobby, namely micro-mounting. People look strangely at those of us huddled over



our microscopes working on those tiny minerals that easily fit into the 1" boxes, but do they know why we do it? There are many reasons to work with micro-minerals, and listed here are some of these:

Storage space—Whereas most minerals take up quite some space on shelves, micro-mounts require only a small cube of 1" or less. This means that you can keep over 100 specimens in a thin paper box of 8 ½" X 11". These boxes can then be stacked to form a cube 12" high, that can contain over 1,300 minerals. Can you do this with larger minerals?

Variety—most of the rarer minerals exist only in micro form, so if you are a species collector (trying to have at least one of every mineral) you must go for the micros to complete your collection. It is quite a feat to have every mineral, and most people give up within a short time (after all collecting 4,500+ minerals is a daunting task.)

Expense—as we all know, minerals can be quite expensive—many costing well into the thousands of dollars. Micros are relatively inexpensive, most costing less than \$5 or \$10.

Friendship—the micro-mounting hobby is comprised of selfless individuals quite willing to share with others. At conferences, we all trade with other attendees, collect from the give-away tables and buy from the dealers at reasonable prices.

Perfection—micro-mounts have usually been protected within the host rock until the rock is opened, thus revealing for the first time the perfect specimens. Perfection of larger crystals is rare.

True, there is a downside—a good stereomicroscope and light source are really necessary, but once you have these they should last a lifetime. Tools such as trimmers, picks, tweezers, mounting stands and boxes are inexpensive.

The friendships that develop within the community are, as they say, priceless.

Fm The RockCollector 10/2010; via Stoney Statements 10/10

(First paragraph and title were slightly edited by the Editor to fit the situation-SB)

[Photograph from Internet]

Opal By John Zentz for Star-O-Lite

October's child is born for woe, And life's vicissitudes must know,
But lay an opal on her breast, And hope will lull those woes to rest.

[Author unknown]

The traditional birthstones for October are tourmaline and aquamarine. The modern birthstones are tourmaline and opal.

Since our unknown author chose opal for October's child, I will start there.

Technically, there are many forms or types of opal.

Some categories are boulder, black, light, precious, common, potch, resin, synthetic, transparent, peacock, harlequin, flame, fire, and even opalized fossils. It is a usually transparent or translucent mineral consisting of hydrous silica. It can occur in almost any color but is most often pinkish white. While chemically similar to quartz, opal is softer and less dense and usually contains from 3% to 10% water. It forms at low temperatures from silica-bearing water in fissures and cavities of any rock type. Unlike many minerals, it is not found in dense concentrations, but instead is found in small quantities dispersed over large areas.

Sometimes an opal will have regularly packed tiny spheres of amorphous silica arranged in a way that causes light to reflect and refract into beautiful colors resulting in what we term —precious opal. These spheres are only a few tenths of a micron in diameter. For comparison, a human hair is about 100 microns wide, and a red blood cell is about eight microns in diameter. The tiny spheres are small enough to interfere with the wavelengths of light which is how they produce the remarkable play of colors we love so much.

While some types of opal are found in many places around the world, the vast majority of precious opal is found in only a few places, primarily the Coober Pedy and Andamooka fields in southern Australia. Australian opal did not reach the world's markets until the very late 1800's. Prior to that, precious opal was very rare indeed.

Throughout history opal has been regarded as a lucky stone. Some believed it enhanced psychic abilities, held magical powers, improved eyesight, amplified desires, protected against disease, and even bestowed the gift of prophecy. But, everyone believed it was a lucky stone, at least until the late 18th and 19th centuries when it fell out of favor as it became associated with famine and disease.

Walter Scott's novel *Ann of Geirstein* and a few other fiction works of the time caused some people to think of opal as an unlucky stone. Fortunately, this is no longer the case. Opal has regained its rightful place.

An opal requires special care by its owner. It should never be placed in an ultrasonic cleaner, or exposed to acids or solvents. Clean an opal with mild soapy lukewarm water and a very





Opals, continued'

soft toothbrush. It should also never be exposed to very cold or dry conditions. Prolonged exposure to strong light can even cause the water to dry out and the stone to crack or craze. Crazeing is the formation of tiny surface cracks in a pattern similar to that seen in dried mud. Many people believe opals should be worn frequently so they can absorb moisture and oils from the body to help keep them hydrated and prevent crazeing. However, wear them carefully. Most references classify opals with a hardness of 5 ½ to 6 ½ Mohs, but some can be as soft as 4 ½.

More so than most gemstones, precious opal is unforgiving of its cutter. To get the most intense fire the cutter must remove intervening translucent material without removing the source of the fire. Once cut, the fire is lost forever. Knowing when to stop comes only from experience for which the cutter must pay dearly. It takes a practiced, bold and steady hand to unveil one of nature's most beautiful displays so the world can appreciate it. October's child owes her wondrous treasure to both nature and a talented craftsman. Fm Star-O-Lite 10/2010; via Stoney Statements 10/10.



[Photographs from Internet]

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It's already October, where have the months gone? Does it seem to you that the years go by faster and faster. Some of you may have heard that that happens as you age. Although, I'm still fairly young as age goes, I've felt ancient my entire life. Now as a child, I was never very stout in my health, always having to visit Dr's. and such. As I've matured, I've grown out of some of that, and different things have affected me since. Course, that is true with most folks. The most common thing I've heard is 'you don't look sick', some things are on the inside, so please, don't ever tell anyone that. Either way, I'm looking forward to enjoying the rest of it.

Several of you may have noticed that I've been missing from the monthly meetings recently. Thank you for your kind thoughts and concern. Yes, there have been issues affecting my health and other reasons I've not been able to make it the last three months or so. Please, know that I do miss the group, the friendship and visiting before (during sometimes, lol) and after each meeting. Also, the chatter as President Criss or Don Campbell try to quiet us down to get things moving. Know that my thoughts are with you as each member enjoys the hobby, so enjoy it a little for me.

I've not completely been sitting on my laurels. As I've stated in the past, I really got interested in the group (then became addicted for other reasons) because I wanted to learn wire-wrapping. So, needless to say, I've been playing around with some of the beautiful stones I've collected or purchased. Recently, I've had a friend with a website offer to add a page for my jewelry, so I'll have to see how that goes. Now, I may not sound it, but I am excited about it, as I've gotten quite a few complements on my designs. (blush)

It's getting closer to that time of year, never too soon to be thinking about our club's annual show. What part are we going to take to help make it a success this year. It really does take the effort of many to get things to run as smoothly as possible and not put too much of a burden on just a few. Where would you like to volunteer during the show...bringing something to the Dealer's dinner, watching the front desk, the silent auction table or maybe several places? What specimens would you like to find another home for via the Silent Auction table? Even something small makes that much more of a difference to the club, whether it be a specimen, or a few hours of your time. Keep in mind, it's a wonderful avenue to recruit new members, you never know if that person you are talking to will be a new member in the club. That's how I started out.

Well, I will wrap things up for this note from the editor, hope all your rock hunting is successful.

Susan, Editor

South Central Federation Mineral Society (SCFMS) Show



Come and join us on December 11th and 12th for the 23rd annual Rock and Gem show hosted by the DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society combined with the South Central Federation show. This show will be held at the Beauregard Parish Fair Expo Hall at the Richard Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, 610 West Drive, DeRidder, LA.

There will be a breakfast on Saturday at 7:30 AM for the South Central Federation Mineral Society newsletter editors and web masters at Ryan's Buffet located at 735 North Pine Street (located near the fairgrounds).

The SCFMS annual meeting will be held at 1:00 PM and the Awards Banquet at 6:00 PM—both of these activities will be held at the War Memorial Building.

The Rollin' Rock Club meeting will be held on Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Come join us for a great show which will include gemstones, minerals, jewelry, Indian artifacts, demonstrations, flint knapping, silent auction, hourly door prizes and much more to see.

Pre-registration and exhibit forms can be found on the SCFMS web site: <http://www.scfms.net/>.

It will be a show to remember in December!

~Information reprinted from the SCFMS September–October 2010 Newsletter



A Tribute to Volunteers

Valuable is the work you do,
Outstanding in how you always come through.
Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer,
Untiring in your efforts throughout the year.
Notable are the contributions you make,
Trustworthy in every project you take.
Eager to reach your every goal,
Effective in the way you fulfill your role.
Ready with a smile like a shining star,
Special and wonderful—that's what you are!

~Margaret Good, AGMS Member; via The Stone Chipper 10/10

CLUB OFFICERS

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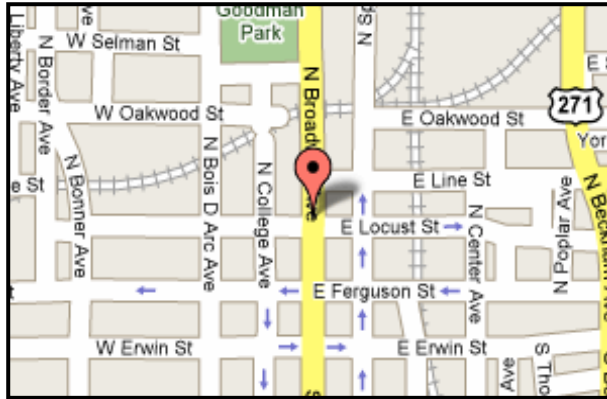
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

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Tyler, TX 75703

CLUB ADDRESS: East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
P. O. BOX 132532
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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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