



# ROCK-N-ROSE



PAGE 1 VOLUME 35 TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2009

## Coming Shows, 2009

NOVEMBER 24-25  
MESQUITE, TX  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Soc.  
Resistol Arena Exhibition Hall

NOVEMBER 27-29  
TERLINGUA, TX  
Rock & Gem Fest  
Chihuahuan Desert G & M Club  
Big Bend Motor Inn Conference

DECEMBER 5-6  
ROUND ROCK, TX  
Fossil Fest 2009  
Paleontological Society of Austin  
Old Settler's Park

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well fellow Rockhounds, we had over a 100% attendance of those signed up for the most recent field trip to Lake Nacogdoches to collect fossils and sharks' teeth. Not only did all those who had signed up participate, we also had some other members meet us there. Although a few members did find sharks' teeth, there were also fossilize shells and horn coral collected. Very fitting, I've come across an article on horn coral you might find interesting.



## E-MAIL UPDATE

In the past several months I've been working to get the news letter out in an e-mail format. Yes, success is ours! However, I've only had a few people sign up to receive their newsletters that way. There are several benefits to getting your copy via e-mail. One, it saves the club money, each issue of the newsletter costs at least \$ .90 to print and mail to you. Secondly, it saves me time and energy to fold, stamp, stick labels, etc. (that's the part I dislike doing the most, lol). Third, you have the option of reading it on your pc or printing it out yourself. Next, you get it before everyone else, as some times it takes me a while to get the hard copies sent out. And most exciting of all, it comes in color!!! So, email me to request your copy be sent that way, today!

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## November Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:10 p.m., November 2, 2009, in the meeting room of the Discovery Science Place on Broadway Street in Tyler, TX.

First order of business was a motion by Jack Shull, duly seconded by Tom Stringfellow and unanimously approved, to accept the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter. A total of 20 club members and 3 visitors were present

Treasurer Jeri Kitchens gave the monthly financial report and reminded club members of club dues for 2010 that are due before the January meeting. She also requested that members who have any information changes (address, email etc.) please fill out a new membership form.

There was no old business and the only field trip scheduled was to Lake Nacogdoches on November 7th.

Susan Burch, club newsletter editor, said that she will email the newsletter in a jpeg. format and the reader will need to open each page. She requested that members who would like to receive the Rock-N-Rose electronically send her an email so she will have the correct address to send the newsletter.

The first item of new business was the election of officers for 2010 with Keith Harmon nominating the current officers, Tom seconding the motion and the motion carrying.

Next on the floor was Susan Burch with a request for members to write letters requesting a gemstone stamp; she could provide addresses and information. She also said the Federation believes the club should have an historian who would be in charge of putting together a club scrapbook.

Keith led a discussion about the upcoming annual club show in January. He had sign up sheets for volunteers for all 3 days of the show plus set up help. Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. will be Kids Day. The dealer dinner will be on Friday night with club members providing the meal. On Kids Day there will be no Spin the Wheel or silent auction; no charge for kids or people accompanying a group. There will be static displays in the front lobby area with a few volunteers to explain the exhibits. Jack asked the projected number of kids and what grade; Keith said they will all be from the 5th grades and we are told to expect 400-800 or about 80 kids per hour, with the schedule staggering class arrivals. Dealers will be on hand to show and explain about what they have on display and answer questions as they do at other club shows. The show will be open to the public on Friday and they will be charged entry fee so there will be a need for a front desk person.

Keith had information on the American Federation Scholarship and the difficulty with funding this year, including the fact that Montana issued 1 in the amount of \$2000 (to be administered over two years) instead of 2. There was lively discussion among club members concerning the amount the club could donate and the fact that there are 44 clubs in the South Central Federation. Don Campbell made a motion to donate \$150, seconded by Pat, with a unanimous yeas vote.



Minutes Cont'

Rip voiced a request for any leads on a location for a new home for the club.

Don asked for volunteers to assist him with a program at the Discovery Science Place on November 19th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The attendees were reminded of the December 7th Christmas Party with the Chinese Gift Take-away/exchange.

Door prizes were awarded and a short break was called.

The November meeting was Show & Tell and Keith led off with anhydrous rocks from Rio De Sol in Brazil and a rare geode with native silver in it. Charlotte showed her always popular picture rocks. Susan displayed her faceted marbles made into jewelry (the object of an article in the October Rock-N-Rose) which led to a general discussion about faceting machines. Sylvia had a crystal with water in it and a sapphire ring. Jack said at the last show a guy was selling some rocks and he got an Ellensberg blue agate which fluoresces and is the state rock of Nebraska. Ni brought a framed mosaic of rocks with a request to help her identify the specimens. Jon had crystals in quartz, pyrite and syphalerite. Pete passed around his finds from that very morning at Magnet Cove in Arkansas. Becky had tourmaline from near Crazy Horse Monument in South Dakota and amethyst from near Creede, Colorado. Penny reminded everyone to label their rocks as they collect them and had a sack of rocks, a small portion of the basket of rocks left behind by a recently deceased friend who had been a world-traveler/collector. None of the rocks were labeled and their story is gone. Pat was up next with her shadow boxes as a demonstration of artistic ways to display a collection for best appreciation and protection. Colleen shared the tale of collecting her palmwood arrowhead. Don had a display of trilobites from Black Cat Mountain in Oklahoma and a new book about Black Cat Mountain trilobites by George Hansen. Bob Carroll has recently allowed Don to do a study on the layers of rock on the mountain.

Last item before the club was a presentation by Susan Burch to her mother of an award she won at the recent editors meeting for a poem published in the club newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



### DECEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

**Our December 7th club meeting program will be our annual Christmas gift exchange party. Each club member is asked to bring at least one festively wrapped earth science related item to the meeting to be swapped in a Chinese type gift exchange. We will select gifts and take away from each other. The gift items can be rocks minerals, fossils, jewelry, books, or anything related to our hobby. Also please bring food and snacks to the meeting, as we like to have a lot of treats to snack on during the meeting.**



## FOSSIL CLEANING CLASS

Don Campbell will host a fossil cleaning class at his office on Saturday December 12th at 8:30am. The class will be limited to two people due to limited space and equipment. Call Don at 903-520-4085 to reserve you space or for more information.

## FREE ROCKS

As I forgot to post the area code for this, I thought I would re-print it in the newsletter. Long-time club member (Waco G&MS) James Conder says, "I have boxes and crates of rocks (14" by 14" by 14") full of rocks to give away to anyone who wants them." All James asks is that you call him before you stop by his house. James's phone number is 254-752-9147. He lives at 920 N. 22nd St. in Waco. via Gritty Greetings 11/09



## SHOP TIPS Silver Smithing

1. Use the least amount of solder needed to make a good solder joint. Do not flood the joint with solder.
2. Pieces to be soldered should fit tightly with no air space between.
3. The joint and solder must be clean. Flux joints well.
4. All pieces being soldered should reach soldering temperatures simultaneously.
5. To harden sterling silver, simply heat to 600 degrees for 30-50 minutes in a kiln or furnace. Air cool the sterling silver before pickling it.
6. Sterling silver findings and other items will not tarnish if kept in a sealed container with a cake of camphor.
7. Have your chains and buckles lost their bright new look? By spraying them with Fantastic cleaner and rinsing, they'll regain their showroom shine.
8. Save the water from boiled potatoes to shine up tarnished silver or jewelry.

(From Hound's Howl March 2003 via Pebble Prattle, 11/2000 Chats and Chips, 12/2003);via Stony Statements 11/09



RUGOSA, HORN CORALS  
Middle Ordovician to Late Permian  
Article from [www.palaeos.com](http://www.palaeos.com)



The Rugosa or “rugose corals” (referring to their wrinkled appearance), also known as “horn corals” were an important group of Paleozoic organisms. Both solitary and colonial forms are known, but the former are more common. Solitary rugosans usually have a horn shaped (hence the alternative term, “horn corals”), while the colonial types commonly have hexagonal corallites. The skeleton is made of calcite and is generally quite massive. Solitary rugose corals range in size from a few millimeters in diameter and in length to 14 centimeters in diameter and a height of close to one meter. Some colonies may be 4 meters in diameter. Like modern corals (e.g. sea anemones, which can be observed in intertidal rock pools), the coral animal (or polyp) fed by using tentacles to capture and sweep organisms into their mouths.

As a very general rule, rugose coral have stronger radial septa than they do transverse platforms. The septa radiate out from the center. Rugose corals have both major and minor septa. Rugose corals differ from other corals by the pattern by which they add septa through their ontogeny (development and growth). Both solitary and colonial rugosans have this distinctive septal insertion pattern, which gives most rugose corals bilateral symmetry. The six proseptra are added first, including the cardinal septum and counter septum, which are at 180 degrees from one another. . After this the major septa (metasepta) are inserted serially in four positions; minor septa short and inserted between major septa, probably serially also. It is this fourfold developmental pattern that gives rugose corals their alternative name of tetracorals (tetra meaning four). New corallites may bud asexually, although they also reproduced sexually. The buds have four septa. As the corallite grows, the septa begin to spread further apart, and new septa are added, generally, four septa at a time are added to maintain a rigid structure. The growth lines on the coral span its length from the calice (top) to the base. Rugose corals generally added a new layer of growth each day (a new wrinkle), and the days in the Paleozoic year have been determined through counting growth rings on rugose corals. It is now known for example that the Devonian period had a year of 400 days (in the past the Earth rotated more quickly around it's axis; this rotation is being gradually but continually slowed by the tidal “brake” exerted by the moon's gravity). It is not known whether rugose corals had symbiotic photosymbiotic zooxanthellae (algae) as modern corals do. Some have suggested not, but personally I see no reason why they would not have. They





Horn Coral Cont'

were rarely reefbuilders as modern corals are. The reason being they were not able to attach themselves to the bottom the way modern scleractinian corals can.

[Star-O-Lite 11/09 via The Ammonite 1/09 via The Rock Collector 2/09];via Stoney Statements 11/09



### THOUGHTS ON PUBLIC LAND LEGISLATION

Excerpts from the President's Message from The Backbender's Gazette of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, July 2009.

Admittedly, the U.S. Congress slipped one over on us in the Omnibus Land Bill which had failed year after year. I hope we can now undertake to get them to look at the need to have a means for rockhounds to collect vertebrate fossils on public lands in an organized manner. I would suggest that they look at what Florida did for a number of years. The State of Florida had fossil collectors apply for a license to collect on State lands. It was something like a whopping \$15/year. The license allowed you to collect on State lands with the provision that annually you reported to the State of Florida every vertebrate fossil you found. The State then had the option to declare something you found to be property of the State (if it was significant and needed to become public property), and if they failed to do so within something like 90 days, then you owned the fossil. I'm sure that failure to report or filing a false report and not listing what you found very well may have been a criminal violation and probably should be. Honesty is good in our avocation, especially if it would open up collecting on Federal lands in an organized way. That type program at the Federal level would work well for us honest rockhounds. It would do away with the pirates who go on Federal lands and use heavy equipment and collect large quantities without doing scientific work at the site. It would force everyone to document where things are, how they relate to each other, the GPS and compass directions regarding the site, the depth at which the items are found, the matrix in which they are located, and other important details for scientific purposes. Many of us do this on private land anyhow because it is important to document for purposes of further study where and under what conditions fossils are found.

As mentioned before, I doubt that this new legislation will be known for years, if ever, to those who find things like a Pleistocene horse or bison tooth on the beach. There are so many of some "vertebrate" fossils having little significance that to make citizens criminals or to invoke harsh penalties just doesn't make sense. If there is anything good to be said about our Senators and Representatives who voted FOR the Omnibus Land Act, it was that virtually none of them read it (not accidental as that was what the Speaker of the House and others in the House and the Majority Leader in the Senate and others there demanded—no time to read the Act— just vote for it because it has goodies in it for you and



## Land Legislation Cont'

other things that folks will holler about if you vote against it. It is a sin that we pass our laws in this manner. Just as is done in Texas, they wait until the last minute to rush through bills deliberately stalled all during a session so they can be run through in the final minutes, often with last-minute amendments that sometimes make the Bill exactly the opposite of its original intent.

However, we can start now to undo some of the mischief. Actually the Omnibus Land Act only allowed casual collecting of "invertebrate" fossils, in some instances with permission of the Federal authority at that location. As best I can tell, the Omnibus Land Act did not even address vertebrate fossils, leaving them all illegal to collect or to have in your possession on Federal land.

We need to start the ball rolling—with every AFMS rock club in the nation and every other organization dedicated to the fair right of citizens to their federal lands—to get some new legislation that allows collecting and has reasonable parameters to satisfy the purported purpose of this part of the Omnibus Land Act. Yet the bill also must provide a means for casual collectors (like gem, mineral, and fossil club members) to be able to do so legally while providing an annual accounting of what is collected, thus giving the Feds access to those things of scientific worth which is what the act was supposed to be about.

--Terry Proctor, President, Houston Gem and Mineral Society, via Rock Prattle 10/10



### TOP 10 REASONS TO COLLECT MINERALS

10. Large specimens can double as ballast for the car in winter.
  9. Didn't know what to do with that empty space in the garage anyway.
  8. Always preferred vacationing in abandoned quarries to white-sand beaches.
  7. Collecting only copralites is just too specialized.
  6. In-Laws might not visit as much after hearing rock tumbler in guest bedroom.
  5. Field collecting may help you improve your aim with a hammer.
  4. Mounting micro specimens is an excellent way to teach the virtue of patience.
  3. Baseball cards don't look as nice lining the flower garden.
  2. Elvis may have his own stamp, but he'll never have his own mineral.
- And the number one reason to collect minerals . . .
1. It's still legal!!!

Reprinted from The RockCollector 11/09 via Pesa Rock News, via Rockhound Record 11/09;via Stoney Statements 11/09



### CLUB OFFICERS

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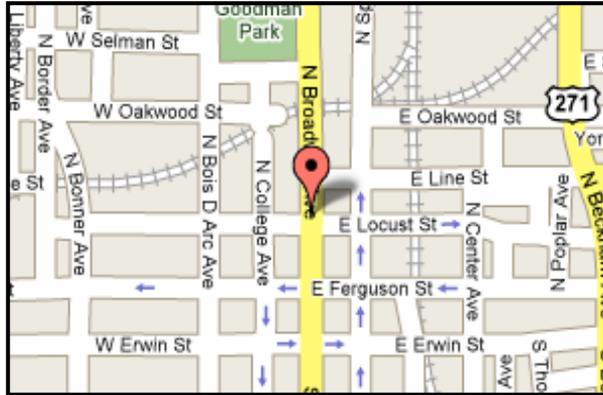
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**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:** Your name could be HERE!!!  
Volunteer Today!

**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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