



# ROCK-N-ROSE



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TYLER, TEXAS

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## Coming Shows, 2009-2010

JANUARY 22-24

TYLER, TEXAS

"Gemstone and Jewelry  
Showcase"

ETGMS

Rose Garden Center

FEBRUARY 20-21

PLAINVIEW, TEXAS

48th annual show

Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Soc.

Ollie Liner Center



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## PRESEDENT'S MESSAGE

December meeting was well-attended with lots of good food and good cheer. Several new members were welcomed into the society. Christmas gift exchange was fun, as usual. Many nice gifts. A good time was had by all. In addition to being a time of joy and celebration, Christmas should also be a time of reflection. Reflection on what each of us has to be thankful for, not what each of us does not have. Thoughts lead to feelings, so concentrate on thinking about the good things in your life. You'll be surprised at how much better you'll feel !!!!

Happy Holidays and hope to see you all at the January meeting.



### December Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting and Christmas party was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:18 p.m., December 7, 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 November 2, 2009 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter. A total of 16 club members and 3 new members were present

There was no treasurer's report.

The only old business was a reminder to members who wish to get the club newsletter via email to please send their current email address to the Rock-N-Rose editor, Susan Burch.

Don Campbell said that 15 members made the field trip to Lake Nacogdoches in November and that some horn coral was found. Don also reminded everyone that there were sign up sheets on the table for workers for the club show in January. He will host a work day in January at his shop for members to assemble prizes and awards for the show. This work is vital to the success of the show and everyone was urged to plan to attend. The date for the workday will be announced at the January club meeting. The show is scheduled: January 21 for set up, January 22 for Kid's Day and January 23, 24 for the regular show.

Don also had the only item of new business, a request by Sherry Rogers of the Discovery Science Place for help in setting up a fluorescent rock display in the museum area. Club members were enthusiastic about donating lights and specimens and assisting with the installation.

Door prizes were awarded and members took a snack break to enjoy the many festive treats and goodies.

And then the Big Event: the Chinese Gift Exchange whereby gifts were chosen, taken away, admired, stolen, chosen, taken away.... all in good fun and with much laughter.

The official meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. but it was a long time before all the gifts were admired again and everyone left.

Respectfully submitted by

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



## January Meeting Program

"What's Hot in Tucson 2009" A video program showing the highlights of the 2009 Tucson Shows, with a discussion and question and answer period to follow.

### Gem Show Work Day

2010 Gem & Mineral Show work Day Sat. Jan. 9th at 9am at Don Campbell's office, 5734 American Legion Rd., Tyler, Texas 75708, We will assembly and prepare all of the rocks, minerals, and fossil specimens we have collected for use on our wheel of fortune game and silent auction table at the Gem & Mineral show. Call Don at 903-520-4085 for more information and directions. We should complete the work by 1-2pm.



### Variscite, Older Than I Thought By Dr. Timothy Baker

Many of you will have worked with this beautiful green phosphate gemstone, sometimes known as green turquoise. It has a long and interesting history. There were articles in the magazine Rocks and Minerals in the 1950s about the gun battles fought over the variscite nodule mines near Fairfield, Utah. (Skiers take note, Fairfield is south of the famous Alta Gold mines now converted to a ski resort). It wasn't until I was visiting my daughter in Catalonia, Spain however, that I found out how old variscite mining really was. In the development of a suburb 10 miles south of Barcelona the excavators discovered a series of tunnels. These tunnels dated back to the Neolithic period and are the oldest gallery mines discovered in Europe up to this time. It has been established that the mines were worked for variscite for several centuries. The mines were 6,000 years old (a thousand years before the pyramids). There are many





## Variscite Cont'

openings. Some of the tunnels were 100 feet in length. There is evidence that the variscite was traded throughout Spain.

The next time you cut a specimen of variscite, realize that you are following an ancient tradition. AGMS Newsletter 12/09 via Gem Cutters News 9/08 via The Hound's Howl 11/08]; via Stoney Statements 12/09



## How Geologic Time Periods Got Those Crazy Names

The three geologic eras are the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic - from the Greek for Ancient, Middle and Recent Life. They are divided into 11 periods, most of them named for the places where rocks from that period were first discovered.

The Cambrian Period (50 - 500 million years ago) is named for Cambria or Wales.

The next two periods also received Welsh names: Ordovician and Silurian for two Welsh tribes, the Ordovicians and Silurians.

The Devonian is named for Devonshire, England and the Cretaceous comes from "creta" Latin for Chalk, referring to the White Cliffs of Dover, England. The Jurassic is named for the Jura Mountains in Germany, and the Permian for the Perm in Russia's Ural Mountains.

The Triassic got its name because it was easily divisible into three parts and the Carboniferous is named for carbon, because most coal deposits date from that. In North America, the Carboniferous is subdivided into the Mississippian, named for the Mississippi River and the Pennsylvanian, named for the coal deposits first discovered in Pennsylvania.

The most recent periods are the Tertiary and the Quaternary, named for types of rock dated to those eras. They are divided into epochs, whose names all end in "cene" a Greek root meaning recent. Pleistocene is from the Greek for most recent. Preceding it are the Pliocene, Miocene, Oligocene, Eocene and Paleocene, meaning most recent, less recent, little recent, early recent and oldest recent. Got it all now?

Author unknown From The RockCollector 12/09; via Stoney Statements 12/09



## *Tips & Tidbits*

*More Comfortable Cab Cutting—Is the edge of your cab machine water trough sharp? When you're cutting a cab, does the edge dig into your wrist or arm? Here's an easy and inexpensive solution to end your discomfort. Get a piece of foam pipe insulation from the hardware store and place a piece of it over the edge of the trough. Voila, no more discomfort! And, you can easily remove the foam when you go to empty or clean the trough (from Gem Cutters News 6/08 via The Rockhouser 11/09).*

*Working with Dark Colored Moss Agate—like the black Montana variety, small pits may sometimes appear on the finished, polished surface. The light colored polishing powders, such as tin oxide or cerium oxide, often pack into these small pits, making removal difficult and white spots surely distract from the stone's appearance. Try rubbing a small bit of black India ink into the spotted area, and then try to rub off the ink. The white spots will disappear. (from Rockhound Rambling 9/08 via Quarry Quips 8/09).*

*Keeping Ivory in Light—Don't put ivory in the dark! It is one substance that needs light. If it has started to yellow, take half a lemon and rub it in some salt. Then rub it over the ivory object. The lemon will work on the yellow discoloration. After it is dry, dampen a soft cloth with lukewarm water, and rub the ivory. All via 12/09 The RockCollector via Pick & Pack; via Stoney Statements 12/09*



Carved Ivory

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### ***Picking Good Jasper - author unknown***

*Jasper is much more troublesome to polish than agate because many varieties are “earthy” and porous, and others contain hematite, which is itself difficult to polish. If you are on a field trip, a good way to test jasper is to wet it. (Do not lick it.) If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, keep it. It contains a high amount of chalcedony and will take a good polish. Most Jaspers polish well on leather with Linde-A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. Always remember that a fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing. When tumbling softer, hard to polish material, don’t start with the coarse grit. Start with the second grit and go one grit finer than the #3 grit used on agates. In polishing, fill the tumbler  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{7}{8}$  full (if not using pellets) so the stones will roll and not fall. This way you do not have the stones beating the polish off the ends. Also, cerium oxide will polish better than regular tumbler polishing agents. It does not take very much cerium to do this job, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  as much as the regular tumble polish. The RockCollector 12/09; via Stoney Statements 12/09*



### ***Wichita Mountain Myths - Sunset***

*The Sunset Peak area of the Wichita Mountains is some of the most picturesque landscapes to some of us especially if we had a wet spring. But it also holds many treacherous boulder valleys, always a few reptiles and maybe some lost gold. At age 14 and well before the advent of metal detectors, my group of friends mainly relied on the old stories grandfather told for adventure.*

*Well one day we set off for a spot that grandfather was convinced was the cache of gold from another unlucky Spanish Burro train. The story went that if we found the boulder that looked like a buffalo, went southwest as the crow flies for a quarter mile we should find a small valley.*

*Now there is a boulder that looks somewhat like a buffalo on the west face of Sunset mountain and using this as a marker we headed southwest. It was the next part that was tough. This was also what had stymied many a hunter over the years in early Oklahoma since the landmark for the next part was two boulders,*



### *Myth's Cont'*

*one twice as high as the other with an oak tree in between. Well, there were boulders everywhere and post oaks sprinkled over the entire area. Finally we found what would be a reasonable spot and started up the boulder, tall grass and tree choked valley.*

*We went on measuring our steps as progress. It was almost impossible to tell where we were except for the compass so we climbed the valley wall to get a bearing. From this point we could see several other small valleys nearing twins to this one running basically parallel. Were we even in the correct one?*

*It was late afternoon by this time and we had been out nearly 4 hours. We decided to go on looking for the next marker – a square boulder lying against the valley wall. Soon, we came upon just such a boulder – well maybe. It was now getting late. We all had our flashlights but it was not a time to get lost in the boulder fields. For some reason the compass was acting up, periodically twirling around and not settling at all. At the time, I did not get the implication and instead it worried me that we might lose our bearings. There is little magnetite in the Wichita but enough that it can affect compasses in some locations. We had this happen before but also, it just may have been we were close to the cache. We will never know?*

*It may also have been the ghost stories the scout master had told around the campfire last night with tales of vanishing old Indian medicine men, age old Indian burial grounds that should not be disturbed or the ghost warriors would exact vengeance or the cry of the loon that added a spooky atmosphere but we did not like to get caught out at night in the Wichita's.*

*Editor's Note: The Spaniards were well up into Oklahoma from the ill fated Coronado expedition of 1540 until the 1700s. The Wichita Mountains have lots of quartz veins running through them and no doubt there was gold. There are some artifacts south of Sunset toward the south. But rock outcrops are found all over. To make it even more fun, the James and Dalton gangs also frequented the area leaving behind several robberies worth of gold and silver to find. Via Stoney Statements 12/2009*



### CLUB OFFICERS

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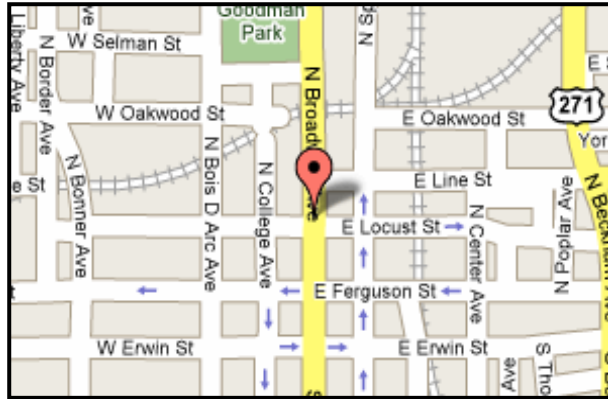
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**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:** Your name could be HERE!!!  
Volunteer Today!

**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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