



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1

VOLUME 38

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2012

Coming Shows, 2013

Jan. 19-20

FREDERICKSBURG, TX
Fredericksburg Rockhounds
Lady Bird Johnson Municipal
Park—Pioneer Pavilion

Jan. 25-27

TYLER, TX

East Texas G & M Society
Tyler Rose Garden Center

Feb. 16-17

GEORGETOWN, TX
Williams Co. Gem & Min. Soc.
Community Center
San Gabriel Park

Feb. 16-17

PLAINVIEW, TX
Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Soc.
Ollie Liner Center



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. Show Time/Membership
3. Discovery Science place
4. Field Trip Report
5. Lapidary Tips
6. Tips/Coral
7. Bench Tips
8. Officers and Directions

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had another fun filled Christmas Gift exchange party at our December 3rd club meeting, and a lot of amazing treats to snack on. Thank you all for your participation. It's just a little over one month until our 2013 Gem & Mineral Show. We will have the show work sign-up sheets again at the January 7th club meeting. We need club members to sign up to work setting up the show on Thursday Jan 24th, work during the Fri 25th school day, Sat the 26th and Sunday the 27th show days, and tear down and clean up after the show on Sun. the 27th. We will need folks to work the front desk selling entrance tickets, work the silent auction table, work the wheel of fortune game, work the fluorescent mineral display and provide food for our Friday evening dealer dinner. We need club members to donate rocks, minerals, fossil specimens and other hobby related items for the silent auction table and the wheel of fortune game. We will have a show work day Saturday, January 12th at my shop in Tyler to prepare all of our show materials. Lastly, we need club members to sign up to reserve a display case at the show to display their creations and collections.

I want to remind club members of the importance of displaying at our gem & mineral show what we do in our hobby as a potential outreach tool. The materials on display for sale by our show dealers is impressive, but I think letting people know what we club members can create and collect, will spark interest in our club and entice the public to come see what we are about. We will have 15 show cases available for club members use at the show. The internal case dimensions you will have to work with are 23" wide x 18" deep and 16" tall. I'm willing to assist any club member in putting together a display, just give me a call.

If you haven't looked yet, please check out our new club web site at www.etgms.com. It's a work in progress, so look it over and give Bill Faulkner your comments and suggestions.

Everyone, please don't forget about our club members, Charlotte Harmon and Al Davis, who are both having serious health problems. Please give them a call, or send a card or email letting them know that they are missed and in our thoughts and prayers.

Don Campbell



OTHER STUFF

1. Dues are due, please pay your dues at the Jan 7th club meeting, or mail them in so you will continue to receive the news letter.
2. January 7th Club meeting program: "Internet access to Geological and Earth Science Information, its never been this good before".
3. 2013 club gem & mineral show work day, Saturday, January 12th, 9a.m.-2p.m. at Don Campbell's office, Layne-Texas, 5734 American Legion Road, Tyler, Texas 75708, 903-520-4085.



November Meeting Minutes were not available at press time.

IT'S SHOW TIME!

It's that time of year again. We are getting ready for the annual gem and mineral show. We will have our sign-up sheets for work times at the next meeting, so plan to attend and pick out where and when you want to work the show. Remember, we cannot function without you to man the posts. For those that cannot make the next meeting or want to get the spots they covet now, you can call Keith and let him know when and where you want your name on the assignment sheet. Expect a call from Keith if we don't get all the spots filled by the end of the next meeting. The show dates for 2013 are Thursday, Jan. 24, set-up day; Friday, Jan. 25, Saturday, Jan. 26 and Sunday Jan. 27. Times are Thursday 9 A.M. until set-up is done, Friday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Saturday 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. and Sunday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Then tear down from 5 P.M. until approximately 8 P.M.

Remember, we will have a work day in January prior to the show to get things ready for the silent auction and wheel of fortune. We are OUT of materials so bring your donations to the club meeting or the work shop day. See the Presidents message for the date and times of the work day. We have a dealer dinner on Friday and club members who sign-up to bring food are more than welcome to stay and eat with the dealers so you can get to know them. Becky is in charge of getting the meal together so contact her if you want to help. We are all looking forward to the show with great expectations again this year. The school kids will be coming on Friday once again, and Becky and Penny can sure use your help and support there too. The show is our biggest fundraiser for the year, so this is where we are all needed.

Keith can be reached at (903) 795-3860 or email keithharmon19@yahoo.com.

This is the last newsletter you will receive if your dues have not been paid. Please, take the time to send them in to the club address listed on the back of this newsletter.

EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM



Name(s): _____ Anniversary _____ Birth Date: _____ Adult: ____ Jr. ____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Newsletter via e-mail? Y ____ N ____

Special Interest in the hobby: _____ Date Paid: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone or Cell: _____ Dues Paid: \$ _____



Story reprinted from the August 2012 newsletter to go along with the pictures.

SPANNING THE GEOLOGIC GENERATION GAP

By Becky Whisenant

A portion of the stated purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society as written in the club charter is "educational and, more particularly, to promote the study of geology, mineralogy and the lapidary arts".

On Saturday, August 4, eight members of the club volunteered their time and energies to accomplish that purpose by means of promoting our hobby to children who attended an activity day at the Discovery Science Center in Tyler.

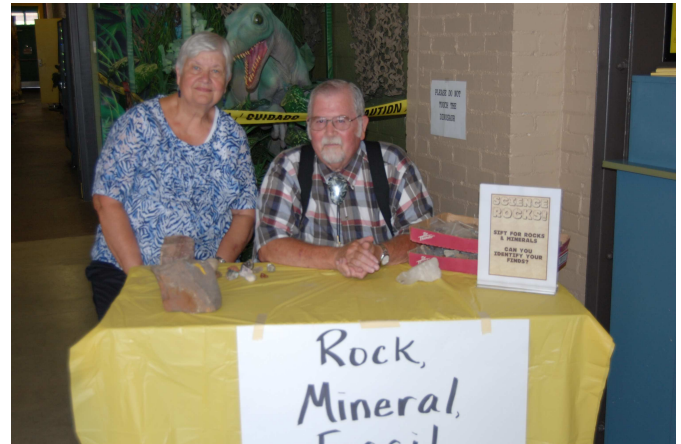
Since availability of our meeting place is contingent upon our contributions to the center's offering of educational opportunities to the public, this event fulfilled two objectives. Club members Terry Roberts, Don Campbell, Pete Keiser, Colleen Hayes, Jeri Kitchens, Becky Whisenant, Al Davis and Carolyn Davis discussed and explained minerals and their every day uses, identification and location of Texas rocks and supervised and/or participated in digging in the dirt.

Getting down to the nitty-gritty, in front of the entrance to the DSC a small swimming pool was filled with sand, and sieves were provided for children to sift and unearth buried specimens. Al & Carolyn manned a booth just inside and identified treasures collected. Umbrellas helped provide shade but, despite the heat, there were lots of smiles and handfuls of rocks poolside.

Next to the sand pit was an archaeology dig site where fossil footprints and dinosaur 'eggs' could be uncovered with the appropriate tools. The eggs were cracked open to reveal a baby dinosaur inside to be taken home.

In order to make this event a success, the DSC provided tables, setups and some materials. Club members contributed displays, gem & mineral samples, specimens collected from club field trips, shared knowledge and willing hands.

None of this would have been possible if not for ETGMS members who don't mind working up a sweat for the smile of a potential future rock hound, and who know that a strong club is much more than a presentation once a month.



Carolyn and Al Davis manning the rock, mineral and fossil table.



Kiwi the Iguana is pictured here overlooking the dinosaur egg dig. Eggs containing 'baby dinosaurs' were unearthed, tools were used to crack them open, revealing a treasure to take home.



Children were provided with sieves to sift through the seeded sandpit to find crystals, mineral specimens and small fossils.



FIELD TRIP REPORT—LAKE TEXOMA

By Becky Whisenant

Lake Texoma is one of the largest reservoirs in the U.S., straddling Texas' northern border with Oklahoma on the Red River. Supposedly, it is popular with fishermen and attracts approximately 6 million visitors a year. However, this has nothing to do with the reason for a recent visit by four members of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society on Saturday, Sept. 29.

These intrepid hounds were not seeking edible water creatures, but long dead inhabitants of an ancient inland sea that once covered portions of northern Texas, now known as the Duck Creek Formation. Consisting of limestone and marl, a clay/lime mixture, this strata is lower or early Cretaceous in age, approximately 100-102 million years old.

The Duck Creek Formation is one of seven Washita formations recognized in northeast Texas. It yields pelecypods, (oysters, scallops and clams), gastropods, shark teeth, echinoids and, happily, ammonites. If one is not careful, however, the rest of these treasures will be eclipsed by the latter, the beautifully geometric ammonites, of all sizes and species. No one can find just one.

Don Campbell, Jack Shull, Tina Watson and Becky Whisenant braved the inclement weather to haul home several pounds of fossils. The rain slackened off about arrival time at the dam parking lot, but continued cloud cover with a light occasional sprinkle made for perfect collecting weather.

Although the area is almost as popular with collectors as with fishermen, there are still nice specimens to be found. Two large ammonites were chipped out of the moderately soft limestone rock layer along with a nearly complete one, each weighing between 30-40 pounds, sutures visible on at least one. Several smaller specimens and pieces were collected as well as an echinoid by Don.

As they were leaving, Becky noticed a small (approximately 2") curled, but not closed, fossil which they gingerly chipped off the rock surface. It turned out to be an idiohamite, commonly called "hook-stone" because of its shape resembling a fat fish hook.

It is too late to reassess one's situation when one is at least a mile away from the truck pushing a loaded wheel barrow or carrying two heavy buckets, one bulging backpack and a couple of single 10-12 pound

pieces you refuse to leave. That's when you fully grasp the meaning of some of the terms others have applied to you over the years concerning your hobby, i.e., weird, crazy, obsessed, etc. It becomes painfully clear, especially in your muscles the next day.

So carpe diem, c'est la vie or sayonara, baby – life's too short to pass up a chance for rocks.



Photo caption: Becky Whisenant kneeling near a large fossil find.

Photo courtesy Don Campbell



All tips on this page via Stoney Statements 08/12

TUMBLE POLISHING: ABOUT TUMBLE POLISHING

First of all, the condition of the stone in the beginning has a lot to do with the amount of work needed on it. If the stones are picked up on the beach where the water and sand have ground them so they look like jelly beans, a large part of your work is already done.

If they are broken fragments or scraps from the trim saw, then they must be ground in the first grind until they are rounded smooth with no holes or sharp edges. This is where you shape the stones, and to have a stone that is pleasing to the eye after it is polished, it must be pleasing to the eye before it is polished. This is very important.

I run two cans on my tumbler. One is on the rough grind all the time (180 or 100 grit). I open it about once a month and take out the stones that are ground smooth and have nice contours. The balance are put back in, the new ones added to take the place of the ones I took out, and the can is recharged with grit and will run another month. Fill the can about 2/3 full with enough water to just cover the stones. Leave some of the mud in from the previous grind. It suspends the grit, and they grind faster. Watch your cans if they are sealed.

You may have to raise the lid to let the gas escape or the cans will blow up.

When I have accumulated enough stones from the first grind to get my second can about 2/3 full, I charge it with 600 grit and run two weeks. Be sure to wash the stones thoroughly between each size of grit or before advancing from one stage to another.

From Supplement to Stonechat, Vol. III. #4, 08/71 -West of Scotland Mineral & Lapidary Society (no author given), via The Burro Express, 12/89, via The Rockhound Gazette, 02/97.

PREVENTING SCRATCHES

Want to keep scratches off your flat silver while working on it? Common transparent contact paper is the answer. Place it on each side of the silver sheet for protection. It accepts and holds an India ink pen line and will not pull loose when you are sawing through it and the silver. Michigan Lapidary Society, via Breccia 11/99

DIAMOND BLADE LIFE

Double the life of your diamond blade by keeping the oil clean and the feed low. Adding ¼ to ½ cup liquid detergent to the oil acts as a coagulant and holds the grit to the bottom of the reservoir. Orange Coast Gazette 11/91, via Breccia 11/99

HIGHLIGHT THE GRAIN:

You can highlight the grain of black petrified wood by soaking it in bleach for 3 or 4 weeks – replenish bleach as necessary. When the desired grain contrast is reached, remove the pieces, wash, sand and polish. Some very interesting pieces can be obtained by using this method. From NFMS Newsletter 2/93, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal 10/99, via SCFMS Newsletter 11-12/99

PROLONGING LIFE OF RUBBER ROLLERS

Clean rubber rollers on your tumbler with lacquer thinner. It will also prolong the life of windshield wiper blades: it keeps them pliable and eliminates drying. Via Gems of the Rogue 3/99, via The Conglomerate 4/99



CRACKING GEODES

Cracking geodes: Soak a string in kerosene, tie it around the geode and burn the string, then plunge it into cold water. In many cases this will develop a crack, and a light tap with a hammer will finish the job.

CFMS Newsletter, via The Conglomerate 4/99, Via Stoney Statements, 08/12

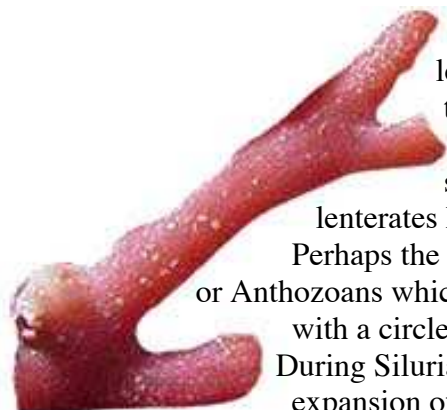
IS GOLD LEAF MADE OF SOLID GOLD?

Yes! A gold block is pounded into a thin sheet by machine. Then, it is reduced to transparent thinness by hand! It can be beaten so thin that 1200 sheets of gold leaf are thinner than a sheet of writing paper!

Via T-Town Rockhound Via The Template Via Slab & Gab 7-8/74, Via Stoney Statements, 08/12



CORALS



The corals belong to a very large group of invertebrates called the Coelenterates (se'-len'-ter-ates) which means "hollow intestine," referring to their hollow body cavity. Common examples are: the jellyfish, Portuguese man-of-war, sea anemone, freshwater hydra, sea fans, and of course, the stony corals that build such extensive barrier reefs in today's oceans. Coelenterates have left a comprehensive record from Cambrian time to the present.

Perhaps the most important subdivision of the "hollow intestine" animals are the corals, or Anthozoans which means "flower animal," referring to the colorful soft body polyp crowned with a circle of numerous stinging tentacles.

During Silurian time, they showed such an extraordinary expansion of types that it is sometimes called "the age of corals." Corals always live in marine seas and most of them secrete a limy external skeleton roughly resembling a tube or cone. Some are solitary individuals; many are colonial or gregarious. The single cup secreted by one polyp is called a corallite. Two or more corallites combine to form a corallum.



The principal features in identification of corals are: the arrangement of the vertical partitions radiating from the central axis, the succession of horizontal supporting structures which the growing polyp built underneath itself as it continued to grow, and the size, shape, and relation of the corallites.

Of the four main types of corals, only two are living today, and neither of these have close Paleozoic relatives. The fossil corals in Michigan, therefore, all belong to extinct types -the Tetracorals and the Tabulate corals. From Michigan Gem News, Et Al, via The Rock Rattler 10/93, via The Glacial Drifter 05/95, Via Stoney Statements, 08/12.

**BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH****ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS**

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

A simple and inexpensive (\$10) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or model making outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

**INFORMATION CORRECTION IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

The link to the AMFED competitive case rules mentioned in the President's Message in the November Rock N Rose, had a typo. It should be www.amfed.org/rules/.
Kinney Polve

**NEW FEATURE SUGGESTION BY A MEMBER**

Am writing to you today about a feature in the Tyler Coin clubs newsletter which features one or two club members a month. The column includes how the members got started in the hobby and what their current interests are. With as many new members and to be honest with you old members that I don't know that well, I thought it might be a good addition to our newsletter and for the club. At least it would let us get to know each other better. The coin club has the member write their own column so it would be little work for the editor. Think about it and discuss it with the other members and see what they think. Just an idea.

John Hargus – Winnsboro

CLUB OFFICERS

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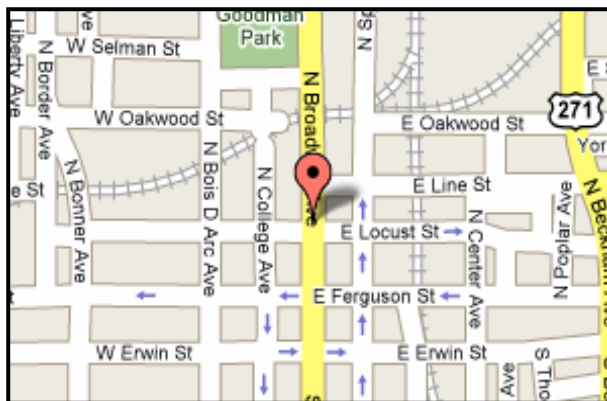
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CLUB ADDRESS FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES: East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
P. O. BOX 132532
Tyler, TX 75713-2532



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. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call me and I will direct you to the right party.

Thank you... SB



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