



# ROCK-N-ROSE



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VOLUME 35

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009

## Coming Shows, 2009

**Feb. 28-Mar 1**  
**PASADENA, TEXAS:**  
Clear Lake Gem & Mineral  
Soc. Pasadena Convention  
Center

**March 7-8**  
**Corpus Christi, TX**  
Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral  
Club  
(361) 851-8788

**March 7-8**  
**Big Spring, TX**  
Big Spring Prospectors Club  
(432) 263-4662

**March 21-22**  
**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**  
Southwest Gem & Mineral  
Society  
Live Oak Civic Center  
[www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)

## —Texas Topaz Day Celebration—

Y'all are all invited to the **Texas Topaz Day celebration** in Mason, TX. Gems of the Hill Country will have our 2nd annual open house on Thursday, **March 26th**, from 4 p.m. on. This date in 1969 was when the Texas Legislature designated topaz as the state gem.

There will be refreshments and live music. Come see the newest Mason County topaz and quartz jewelry. We have beads made out of Mason County quartz as well as some of Dalan Hargrave's Gemstarz jewelry.

Gems of the Hill Country is located on the north side of the historic Mason square next door to the museum at 126 Ft. McKavitt. We will be walking across the street to the courthouse steps for a short wedding earlier in the day. See our website at [www.texastopaz.com](http://www.texastopaz.com) for more information or call 325-347-0475 or 325-347-4316 (cell). ~B. Diane Eames, GG

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**“How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the**  
**striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all of these.”**

*~George Washington Carver*  
*Via Stone Chipper 02/09*



## February Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:00 p.m., Feb. 2, 2009 in the meeting room of the Discovery Science Place on Broadway Street in Tyler, TX.

The first order of business was presentation of the Grand Prize won by a drawing at the close of the club's Annual Gemstone and Jewelry Show in January. Lori Hester was the proud recipient of the stunning amethyst cathedral and it was hard to know who was more excited, Lori or her parents. Mrs. Hester said they have cleared off a perfect spot on the fireplace mantel to show off the amethyst to best advantage. The Junior Grand Prize was a huge dinosaur track and Tristan Chandler was present to take proud possession. Tristan was lucky his father was along to carry it out to the family car after the meeting. Both winners and their families stayed for the meeting.

The meeting was punctuated by alarms going off, both inside the building and outside on the streets. A search for a problem in the building failed to detect any thing.

Jeri Kitchens, Club Treasurer, pronounced the recent show a success with 15 new Club members, including 8 families, signing up during the 2 days of the show. Also to be noted was 18 Scouts who arrived in uniform to claim free admission. Jeri also gave the monthly financial report.

Don Campbell read a gracious letter the Club recently received from Bill and Lois Pattillo, the Rock Food Table people, thanking everyone in the Club for the hard work that made the recent show "a total success". The letter continued with an acceptance of the invitation for the Pattillo's to come back to the show in 2010.

There are no field trips scheduled for 2009 and a request was again made for volunteers for put together trips. Pete Keiser said he talked to the guy who had the land near Jasper, TX where the Club has gone in the past to gather petrified wood. The land belongs to a paper company and they have noted it will soon close the land to collectors.

President Rip listed as new business the resignation note he received from Annette Cunningham who was serving the Club as Vice President and Publicity Chair. Annette said that her husband has retired and they plan to be traveling; she will try to come to meetings when she and her husband are in town. A general discussion followed with members expressing what a wonderful job Annette did for the Dealer's Dinner the night before the show opened. Club members brought food and drink but Annette and several others, including Jeri, decorated the tables and organized the event.

The silent auction item for the evening was a lovely amethyst, continuing the theme from the Grand Prize. Door prizes were awarded and the members took a refreshment break. Tom Stringfellow had brought a display of his jewelry showing what a master craftsman he is.

Don Campbell chose to delay his program on volcano formation since there were so many new faces in the crowd, folks who had not seen the first part of that presentation. Don instead gave an interesting talk on Collecting and Preparing Oklahoma Trilobites. He noted that collecting fossils is one aspect of our hobby while others like Tom enjoy making jewelry, Robert Ortega crafts chain mail and Jack Shull makes cabs. Don had a slide show of the collecting site at Cat Mountain and his friend, Bob Carroll, who earns a living from collecting fossils. Don outlined the steps it takes from finding and cleaning to marketing the trilobites. He took questions from the floor and showed slides of his set ups to sand blast the fossils, ever so carefully.

Don also thanked Club members who recently volunteered at a Discovery Science Place Cub Scout event to stimulate their interest in our hobby and help them work towards Scout badges.



February Minutes Continued...

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Members leaving the parking lot were stunned to discover that during the meeting, a block of historic old buildings only 2 blocks away were becoming a raging inferno. The buildings sustaining the worst damage, actually destroyed, faced the Smith County Courthouse but the efforts of firefighters armed with pumper trucks prevented the fire from spreading to adjacent structures or damaging the Courthouse.

Also to be noted was the omission to accept the minutes of the January meeting, which will be considered at the March meeting. Excitement about awarding the show prizes drove thoughts of Rules of Order to the background.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



### March Meeting Program

Ok, due to the great influx of new members that attended February's meeting, the second part of "Volcanoes" was delayed. Perhaps Don will present it at the next meeting, then again, you never know, the program just might be a surprise...be sure to attend to find out.



### WIRE-WRAPPING WORKSHOP???

The ETG&M Society Club is considering organizing a 1-day workshop on Wire Wrapping, to be taught by Pat Nixon—a well known artist in this art form. The cost of the Workshop would be \$100 per person, which includes the tools (you keep them), the necessary gold-filled wire to wrap with, a small cab, (or a small cab of your own) and Pat's instruction and help for about 8 hours. This is less than her normal class fee, as a favor to the ETGMS. Pat said all students will leave her class with a beautiful piece they will be very proud of. The timing of the Workshop might be in late April, or maybe May or June. It would be on a Saturday, and probably in the room we meet in at the Discovery Science Center, if we can get it. We need at least 3-4 students, and prefer 6-8 students, in order for Pat to make the trip here from Hot Springs, Ark. If you are sincerely interested in this workshop, please contact Gene Goar of our club at 903/561-3008 or Cell 903/245-2013, in the next week or so—but by no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>. Remember—this is just a possible Workshop at this time---and it will depend on the interest we get to determine if we really have it or not. Gene's email is [bgenegoar@suddenlink.net](mailto:bgenegoar@suddenlink.net).



Lori Hester, winner of the stunning amethyst cathedral, adult grand prize



Tristan Chandler, winner of the dinosaur track, student grand prize

## OUR GRAND PRIZE WINNERS FROM THIS YEARS' SHOW!



## Hints & Tips

### Lapidary Tip

When small insignificant pits are present in your nearly finished cab, and you go to the final polish, these insignificant pits will collect the polishing compound and show up like a sore thumb. Of course we don't want our material to have pits in the first place, but unfortunately we are not in a perfect world. Prior to starting the final polish take a little super glue and coat the area of the small pits. After allowing the super glue to cure, a very light sanding will remove the excess super glue, which sands quite nicely. To complete the stone go to your final polish. The pits, being filled with the clear super glue will no longer trap the polishing compound. This tip came to me from Bill Meyers.

Les Connally via The Rock Prattle 02/09

### Mineral Storage Tip

When storing gem materials outdoors, be careful. Many colorful pink and purple minerals are faded by intense sunlight. These include rose quartz, amethyst, lepidolite, and fluorite. Fossil specimens may be destroyed outdoors by wetting, freezing, and thawing. Many fossil specimens are clay based, although there are some specimens that are in sandstone sediment. Common opal, if left in the elements, will craze, crack, and fall apart.

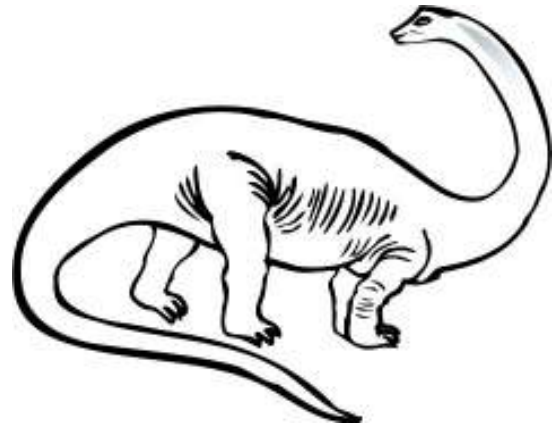
~From *Strata Gem* 4/07, via *Rock Chips* 7/07, Midland

*Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter* 9/07, via *Stone Chipper* 01/09

### The Dinosaurs

By - Professor A.E. Seaman

The dinosaurs are mighty beasts,  
Renowned for bulk and strength.  
Their necks are measured by the yard,  
Their tails had greater lengths.  
Their heads were very small, and  
All in all they were not wise,  
But what they lacked in intellect  
They made up for in size.  
But while their head held one small brain,  
And none too finely wrought,  
Their sacrum held a larger one,  
And was their seat of thought.  
There were ganglia knots along their spine,  
Scattered from stem to stem:  
While these were only scatter brains,  
It gave them a chance to learn.  
Such brains were fine for retrospect  
For looking o'er the past  
For since their forethought was so slight  
The poor beasts could not last.  
They failed to see the "rocks ahead"  
That round them they might steer.  
And so they met the fate of all  
Whose brains are in the rear.



~From - *B.C. Rockhounder*, Spring 2007, via *The Calgary Lapidary Journal*, 11/07; via *Stone Chipper* 07/08





## ETGMS DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sometimes it just comes home to us that what we do as a club does make a difference at least to a few. Our annual show is a great way to induce new members to join and to garner interests in the fields of Geology and the Earth Sciences by members of any age group. We see all the people with smiles on their faces going into the show, searching for a treasure. We see the Scouts in their uniforms, learning more to acquire another badge of learning. In fact I personally was recruited by attending one such show and having a marvelous conversation with a long time member, Bill Holbert. This year, we had Eight new members/families join so far, just from the show! It was brought to my attention by the Shull's, that another's interest was stimulated in rocks, fossils, etc, that of Cub Griffin, age 10. When his teacher at Chandler Intermediate School assigned students to write an essay on "My Favorite Place To Go", Cub knew immediately what he'd write about. His printed story is fairly easy to read and worth the time. It adds character, and honest, imaginative, age-defining impressions of the show. It speaks well for the club. Below is a typed version, but I had to include the original too... please, enjoy!

### THE ROCK SHOW

By Cub Griffin

Feb. 2009

My favorite place to go is the Rock Show. I like the Rock Show because I like to collect rocks. Last time I was there I got a bottle of gold shavings. I also saw an open rock with quartz in it. It was cool. I saw other cool stuff like a piece of a dinosaur egg. We were having a great time there. At the entrance there was a sign -up,. There was an adult prize and a kid prize. I was thinking about signing-up but my grampa would proboly not let me. When I went to look more, I saw a wheel game. I went to play. I got a crystal. My grama saw a rock with a fish. It was a fossil. I tried to get it, but, I got something else. The lady that was working there let me trade the one I got for the fish fossil. I also saw some emeralds I think there were five of them. They all had nice colors. There was som jewelry there too. No one boght any jewelry. My sister, Zane and I each got half of a geode. I saw a geode with green crystals, but it was actually a green light. The crystals were still white. It was one of the best times in my life ever. We all had a great time there!



by Cub Griffith  
Feb. 2009

# The Rock Show

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### CLUB OFFICERS

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

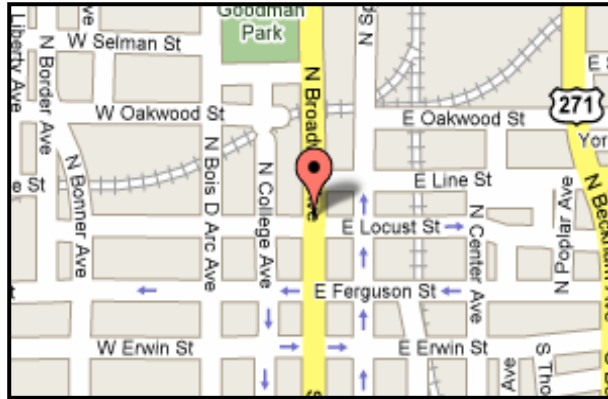
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Annette Cunningham 903-849-6314  
And  
Publicity chair 293 VZ CR 4819  
Chandler, Texas 75758

**TREASURER:** Jeri Kitchens 903-245-8822  
2533 Chelsea Dr.  
Tyler, TX 75701

**SECRETARY:** Penny Hawkins 903-586-4463  
134 CR 3151  
Jacksonville, Texas 75766

**FIELD TRIP  
CHAIRMAN:**

**SHOW  
CHAIRMAN:** Keith Harmon 903-581-4068  
8316 Oxford ST.  
Tyler, TX 75703



**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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