



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2011

Coming Shows, 2011

FEBRUARY 26-27
PASADENA, TX
Clear Lake G&MS
Pasadena Convention Ctr.

MARCH 05-06
ROBSTOWN, TX
Gulf Coast G&MS
Regional Fairgrounds

MARCH 19-20
LIVE OAK, TX
Southwest G&MS
Live Oak Civic Ctr.
8201 Pat Booker Rd.

APRIL 09-10
ABILENE, TX
Central Texas G&MS
Abilene Civic Ctr.
North 6th and Pine

APRIL 15-17
ALPINE, TX
"Alpine Agate Festival"
SCFMS AND
CHIHUAHUAN DESERT
G&MS
Alpine Civic Ctr.
Hwy. 90W & 13th. St.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a show !!! Started out with lots of children from the Tyler 5th Grade science classes coming through on Friday. They were well-behaved, eager to learn and seemed to really enjoy themselves. Saw many of them again over the next two days when they came back with their families. Folks were lined up early waiting to get in on Saturday and moved through at a steady pace until after 5 p.m. Sunday started off the same way and kept steady until 4 p.m. Ended up with no prizes left for the Wheel of Fortune and no items left for the Silent Auction. Will have to get together for a couple of workdays this year to make things for both. I already have rocks going in the tumbler and plan on having 1,000 items ready for next year (more on that later).

I want to thank everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm in making this show a success. People shuffled among work stations as needed, gave bathroom breaks and even helped assemble pendants for the WOF (used up 500 bell caps, 500 jump rings and 2 tubes of E6000 cement in two days; thanks for the assist Lester). Don and Jack turned big rocks into smaller rocks for the WOF. Received lots of positive remarks from the attendees about the quality of the show and the helpful, knowledgeable vendors and friendly club members. You all are what makes this a great club and a great show !!! Thank you all.

We will need items for the WOF and Silent Auction next year. One way to get these items is to gather extra specimens when you go on field trips (alone or with the club). Selenite crystals, fossils, petrified wood, mineral specimens, quartz crystals, etc. are all highly sought after in the auction and can be used to make some unique items when paired with wood. I've already accumulated a feed sack full of unusually formed wood I've found in my wanderings for this purpose. Slabs, butt ends from rocks, rocks to be slabbed, etc. are all appreciated. I have a bull wheel that puts a polish on these items quickly. I plan on having a "club bucket" next to my work bench to put these items in as I get them during the year so I'll have them when we have the work days. If you have rocks to donate to be slabbed, slabs, tumbling material, etc. just bring them to the monthly meetings and we can get members to process them. That way we can get things made up as we go along. Again, thanks for all you do, hope to see you at the meetings and field trips and collect safely.

Rip Criss



FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by Club President, Rip Criss, at 7:05 p.m., Feb. 7, 2011 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX.

Motion to accept minutes of the January, 2011 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter was made by Becky Whisenant, seconded by Jeri Kitchens and motion carried.

Jeri Kitchens, Club Treasurer, gave the financial report including fiscal information from the club show. She also read highlights of a letter from the Patillos who have the popular Rock Food display at the show each year, especially thanking Charlotte and Keith Harmon having them stay as guests at their home.

Rip noted that we had a number of visitors and asked for a show of hands. Six people raised their hands and said they had come after learning of the club at the show in January. Twenty-one club members welcomed the visitors.

A count of the show had the "Kid's day" on Friday with 434 students and 245 paid-admission adults and students. Saturday's attendance was 798 adults and 322 students while Sunday saw 410 adults and 215 students. The total for adults was 1415 and 575 paid student admissions. There was a general discussion about the lack of questionnaires the students were filling out this year and how best to involve the different school systems. Keith Harmon gave a recap of the show and said that all the booths are filled for next year with all of the vendors returning. It was noted that the Wheel of Fortune was very popular, bringing in over \$700 profit at just 25 cents a spin and the wheel had to be shut down several times due to a lack of prizes. Don Campbell suggested that volunteers gather for an extra "work day" to assemble items for the wheel.

Jack Shull said that a club field trip is planned for Feb. 26 to the Elkhart area to dig for selenite crystals. He had a lovely, large selenite formation to display. A second field trip is being firmed up for late March or early April to Oklahoma for crystals, on a hunt lead by Sefus Hall. A third trip in the early planning stages is to Arkansas in the Mt. Ida area. Don Campbell has another idea for a field trip and that is for members to take joint trips to other club shows. Becky said that currently the Ducotes are not scheduling any petrified wood trips to Jasper due to illness.

Door prizes were awarded and members took a short break for refreshments.

Don Campbell presented the program about the basic equipment to do collecting for rocks, minerals or fossils. He had brought the backpack which stays in the trunk of his car and is filled with the "essentials". Several other members offered ideas on some things that they keep in their vehicles, just in case the "collecting" bug should overtake them on an unplanned outing. Rip brought in his bucket of tools and some very helpful hints were exchanged.

The official meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



NOTE

The club had tentatively planned another trip to the Jasper area for petrified wood early this spring, but Don Ducote, lease owner, has been sick, necessitating all trips be cancelled at this time. His wife will contact us when anything changes. If anyone has any good ideas about field trips, the club would love to hear about it. If you have ideas but would like some help in development, Becky Whisenant has volunteered her aid. Please, contact her at whizgnat@netzero.net.



8.) **OTHER CLASSES POSSIBLE**, with adequate student interest: **SouthWest/Native American Jewelry (A), Advanced Metalsmithing (B), Chasing & Repousse' (C), Lost Wax Casting (D), Steam Casting (E), Cuttlebone Casting (F), Broom Casting (G), Stone Setting (H), Faceting (I), Yemen or Russian Filigree (J), Enameling with Glass (K), Enameling with Resins (L), Gem Appreciation (M).....and more.**

FUN-FUN

!!

-----**(Detach here)**-----
to return.

CLASS SURVEY:

Please indicate your interest in specific classes and give your completed survey form to Tom (Tom Stringfellow, email: TomString@aol.com or 903-839-6744. Address: 16856 Cardinal Lane, Troup, Texas 75789)

Tell us if you want weekend or weekday classes or any special times for a specific class:

NAME (Please Print) Contact (E-mail AND Phone) CLASS/ CLASSES

Comments:



Incredible Shrinking Places to Rock Hunt By Jan Woodward

We've all noticed it...fewer and fewer places to follow our passion of rock hunting. Family ranches/farms selling out to developers, more and more public lands being usurped by governmental entities, and privately owned rock hunting grounds being forced to close their doors. From a family owned rock hunting ranch of five generations, here are a few tips that may help keep your favorite rock hunting place from closing their doors.

1. Stay in touch REGULARLY with your elected officials and voice your concerns.
2. ALWAYS abide by the Rock hunters' Code of Ethics.
3. SHARE your rock knowledge with the younger generation...inspire their wonderment.
4. PARTICIPATE in your nearest rock club.
5. FOLLOW private landowners' rules. Rock hunting locations that are privately owned depend on the fees they charge in order to "keep their doors open." Even remote and isolated places have to pay taxes! Help the owners keep their lands open for all rock hunters. Always know whose land you are on, and contact the owner before going onto the land. Don't depend on information from a rock & gem book for total accuracy. Many times rates are given that are so out of date as to be laughable. Sometimes, you find rock hunting places that are no longer open to the public. Check the date of publication for the book you are using. If it is older than a couple of years, you can be sure the information is not totally accurate.

One more word of caution. The American Southwest is one of the best places in the world to hunt for rocks. But the southern border in our great southwest is changing and has some definite drawbacks. If you are hunting in some of these remote and rugged areas without the landowners' knowledge, you may be incurring more risk than you are aware of. Usually there is no cell phone service in such areas. If you are hurt and no one knows you're there, you're on your own. As we all know, some areas of our isolated southern border are attractive as illegal ports of entry. You may very well encounter Border Patrol officers, DEA officers, and U.S. military units, as well as the people they're looking for! We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto!

Following a few simple rules, and treating landowners the way you would like to be treated, insures a good hunt, and, hopefully, for a good long time.

~From SCFMS Newsletter 3-4/08, via Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter, 7/09; via Stone Chipper 08/09



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Rocks really touch my heart, I so enjoy seeing Earth's natural beauty. As I've always been at least a little word oriented, being editor of a Gem and Mineral Society has been very enjoyable for me. Putting the newsletter together electronically, picking which issues to enter into the Author's and Editor's contest each year, of course getting awards and certificates for such and especially the positive comments from members on how they enjoyed the newsletter. However, there are parts of being editor that I do not enjoy and find that I really don't have time or energy for anymore. In this line, I am requesting an editor's assistant, someone to deal with the newsletter after it is printed. One responsibility of this position is picking up the completed newsletter from the printer, right now I drive 43 miles round trip to pick up the newsletter and take it back home. One reason for this is that there are no printers near where I live in Alto, but I've found that Creative Graphics in Jacksonville is also the most inexpensive printer around here. They are not the only printer out there and if the person volunteering for this wishes to use one closer to them, I'm willing to try to help find one, the printer would have to accept the newsletter in e-mail format. The responsibilities also include folding the newsletter in half, putting a stamp on each, placing a mailing label on each and putting two mailing seals on each. It would be nice if they also purchased the stamps and printed up the mailing labels, but if this is not possible, I can still do so, but would need some way of getting this to them in a timely manner. The receipts for any club related purchases are then submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement.

This really isn't an option, we must find someone willing to do this part of the newsletter, or the club will need to find a new editor. Please, keep in mind, that I love getting the newsletter ready for printing, except maybe when it's hard to get a PM from Rip, lol...but the rest is putting too much strain on me physically. At the next meeting I request this be brought up for discussion.

Susan Burch, editor



What is an Amethyst?

An Amethyst is a type of quartz often found in jewelry, it is Bluish-purple in color and is composed of silicon dioxide (SiO₂) with small traces of Aluminum and Iron which all merge to donate it its distinctive purple color. In today's article we will provide some basic information about the Amethyst in terms of its value, characteristics and price.



Greek Mythology Background

The name Amethyst comes from the Greek words a- (denoting 'not?') and Methustos (denoting 'drunk?'); these terms were used since the Greeks thought that the gemstone protected the wearer from becoming drunk. It was quite usual in Greek times for drinking vessels to be made of Amethysts. For example, many wine goblets were carved from the gemstone. The story goes that the Greek god of intoxication and wine Dionysus was in a romantic pursuit of a maiden called Amethystos, who refused his advances. The goddess Artemis protected Amethystos by transforming her into a white gemstone; in honor of Amethystos and her longing to stay chaste, Dionysus poured wine on top of the white gemstone making it go purple in color.

Where is Amethysts Found?

Amethysts are found all around the globe, largely in mines in Brazil, South Korea, Austria, Uruguay, Russia, Canada and Zambia. Specific Amethysts mining areas in Brazil are Las Vigas, Minas Gerais and Piedras Parado. The Amethysts are normally found in geodes which are hollow rocks that contain crystallized minerals around the inside edge.

Another method is to inspect the mining area for something called a vein, The Amethyst can in specific circumstances grow in veins around 30 feet under the ground. Amethysts are commonly found with a stone called Citrine, so if Citrine is found, chances are Amethyst will also be available Amethyst deposits are also found in other countries around the world such as: Bolivia, Argentina, Madagascar, India and Sri Lanka.



How Much Are Amethyst Worth?

The key question asked by many people considering buying an Amethyst is how much do they cost and what constitutes a real stone rather than a fake. Amethysts are considered (along with Diamonds, Sapphires, Rubies and Emeralds) as the most valuable gemstones in the world. However, they seem to have gone down in worth since enormous deposits of the gemstone were found in Brazil - this follows the old adage of

increasing volumes resulting in lower price. Important aspects that characterize the value of an Amethyst include Clarity, Color, Cut, Size, Individuality and treatments used to enhance the Amethyst. Clarity, which refers to the number of flaws inside the gemstone, also affects the value of the Amethyst, with a smaller amount of flaws and scratches resulting in a more expensive Amethyst. In terms of color, an intensely colored deep Purple Amethyst is worth more than a dull, pale lighter colored one.



Amethyst Continued

A superbly cut Amethyst will be more expensive than an average cut gemstone. In terms of size, with Amethysts size does count. The larger the Amethyst the better and the more it is worth. If an Amethyst has unique features such as special patterns or colors, this can additionally enhance its value. Treatments such as heat, dyeing and coating can also reduce the value of the Amethyst. Natural Amethysts will also be more valuable than those that have been artificially treated and enhanced.

About the Author: Rayaz Siddiqi Ruby resource at <http://rubyandgem.com> This article was printed from: <http://www.easyarticles.com/article-630442.htm> From *The RockCollector* 2/2011 via Rimstones Review, 2/11; Via Stoney Statements 2/11.



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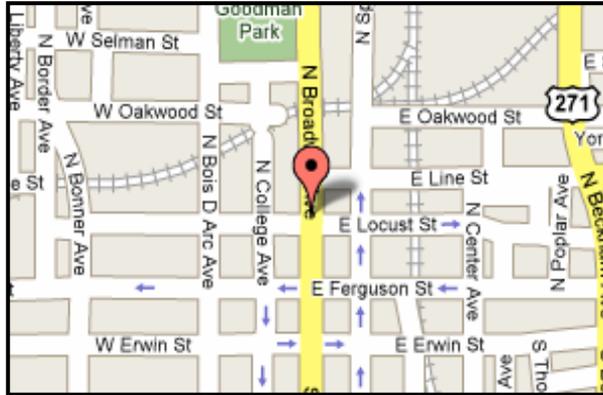
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

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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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