



# ROCK-N-ROSE



PAGE 1

VOLUME 35

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009

## Coming Shows, 2009

**March 20-21**

San Antonio, TX

Southwest Gem and Mineral Soc.

[www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)

**April 11-12**

Abilene, TX

Central Texas Gem & Mineral

Society

[www.txol.net/rockclub](http://www.txol.net/rockclub)

**April 19-19**

Alpine, TX

Chihuahuan Desert Gem &

Mineral Club

[rocklady2002@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rocklady2002@sbcglobal.net)

Note: San Antonio has re-started their show after several years of absence, and at a new venue.

[~www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Meeting Minutes
- 3 Swap and Sell Meet
- 4 May Field Trip
- 5 Carat or Karat / Website
- 6 Trophy / I Get It Now
- 7 Montana / Note
- 8 Officers and Directions

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good meeting ! Don presented a really informative program on volcanoes. The History Channel has been running a series on "How the Earth Was Made". Excellent series !!!! Lots of great geological information. Really interesting programs. Also running "How the Universe Was Made" and it is equally informational. You might want to check your local listings.

Several things to consider before the next meeting. Number 1 is that we need a vice president. Please be thinking of someone that you think would do a good job at this (and would make a good president in the future). Will be accepting nominations at the next meeting and will vote on it then. Number 2 is the proposal to have a "children's day" on the Friday prior to the annual show. Several positive outcomes from this, which include increased show attendance, increased interest in our club and an increased membership in our club. Negatives include having to set up one day earlier and needing some people to work on Friday. I have about 19 months of accrued vacation time so taking the time off isn't an issue for me and if it will help to generate benefits for the club then I'm all for it. Will need to discuss setting up a committee at our next meeting to look at various options of how to have a children's day and then present them to the full membership for a vote. Number 3 is the acquisition of a club house. Most of the people I talk with at the show, at presentations and the new members at the meetings are interested in learning various lapidary arts. However, we currently do not have a place to set up equipment to show them how to do things. In my experience with other clubs, having a workshop/club house is extremely helpful for recruiting and retaining members. Equipment can be set up for classes, members use and demonstrations, a library of reference materials can be set up and members will have a place to try out various lapidary projects and find out what they want to concentrate on. I know that many of the current members have expertise in several areas and could be excellent instructors. In one club I was in, members would go to classes at William Holland, Wildacres, Revere Silversmiths, etc. and then come back and teach what they learned to interested members. Children love "doing" and a workshop would provide a meeting place where we could teach the next generation of Rockhounds our skills.

I know this is a lot to think about but it's all necessary. Please take the time to think about each of these issues and be ready to discuss them at next month's meeting. Until then, happy hunting !!

Rip Criss



### March Meeting Minutes 2009

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

First order of business was acceptance of the minutes of the Feb. 2009 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter. Gene Goar made motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded and passed by unanimous approval. A reminder was made that the January club minutes had not been considered at the Feb. meeting due to the excitement over awarding the grand prizes from the annual club show. Tom Stringfellow made the motion to approve the January meeting minutes, which was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of Jeri Kitchens.

Don Campbell gave a short synopsis of a proposed field trip to gather petrified wood near Jasper, Texas on May 3. Pete Keiser will host the trip but he was in New Mexico so asked Don to tell the members about it. This will be a trip to the land Ron Ducote has leased and allowed club members to hunt on in the past. Ron has said that he will soon give up the lease so this might be the last chance for the club to have a trip to this creek bed. Don said that Pete will email members more details.

Don said that there is a possibility of other field trips to hunt for fossils and gave a short, very funny, description of his outing the past weekend to the Sulfur River. Following his tale of the tribulations involved: cold, wet, cold, steep climb, mud, cold, he said that there will be a club outing there on March 21 and he had a sign up sheet at the back table for those wanting to go. Details and directions will be emailed to those who sign up.

Jack Shull said he has a field trip idea for July or August when it is too hot to hunt outside; he knows someone who has a "rent house" in a town nearby that is full of rocks. The rocks are for sale but it would be a great opportunity for an air-conditioned field trip and a chance to learn about a wide variety of stones. Jack said he will try to firm up a date when the owner will allow us to visit.

Gene had information about a proposed wire wrapping class by Pat Nixon, a well-known artist who will have the class at the Discovery Science Place. Class fee will be \$100 each if 8 people sign up and that will include tools, wire and a cabochon for the students to keep. The class will be 8 hours of instruction and work in April or May. A sign up sheet was on the back table and a deposit of \$25 required.

Keith Harmon, Club Show Chairman, said that during the show in January, representatives of the TISD approached him about school field trips to our show in the future. They said that there needs to be more student involvement with and exposure to the earth sciences. Keith said that it would mean an extra workday for club members and cost the club another approximate \$500 for rental on the Rose Garden facility. One option voiced was to have the school program in the Discovery Science Place and Keith said that the managers would love for us to use the facility for students. It would involve club members setting up the displays and volunteers there to explain, demonstrate



### Minutes Cont'

and answer questions as the students were bussed in. Brenda Sinclair voiced the idea of having the display at one school and other students brought in but the logistics prevented that. Susan Burch asked what would be set up in the Rose Garden for the extra day and a discussion with many good ideas followed. The dealers would have to come in and set up an extra day. Charlotte Harmon said that they exhibit at shows and four of them have a "kid's day" and dealers generally like the idea of the increased exposure. Keith said it is a good sign that the school district is interested in our hobby and feels that it would be educational for the students to see our show. He asked members to give the idea much thought and jot down ideas to bring to the next club meeting. Ne suggested that we concentrate on one grade and the 5<sup>th</sup> was agreed on per the request of the curriculum director as the year when earth sciences are emphasized.

Rip reminded members that we still need a Club Vice President. He also voiced the concern that the club has no place to do demonstrations, no place for a permanent club house. Gene said we need a place to set up equipment and leave it. Club members are asked to explore ideas for a building to purchase or rent for a permanent Club facility.

Door prizes were awarded ; a short refreshment and conversation break was followed by the video program Volcano II by John Renton, Ph D, of the University of West Virginia. The presentation covered the classes of volcanoes and the distinctions of each. There are differences in a crater and a caldera even though many people confuse the terms and differences between a geyser and a fumarole. Following the video, Don encouraged everyone to look around as they travel to find evidences of past volcanic activity such as Pilot Knob near Austin, TX.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



### **SWAP AND SELL MEET**

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society will hold their annual Swap and Sell Meet on Saturday April 18th. If anyone in your group would like to reserve a table please email Kathleen Howard at: [khoward15@austin.rr.com](mailto:khoward15@austin.rr.com). Or you may phone 512 491-9201 and leave a message.

The AGMS club house is located at 6719 Burnet Lane, just north of the intersection of Burnet Road and 2222. The meet will be held from 10am until 4pm. The doors will be opened at 7am that morning for set up.

There will be a pot luck luncheon that all vendors are welcome to contribute to and attend.

Please come!!



## MAY FIELD TRIP

Ron Ducote of the Jasper club has invited us again to his lease on Temple-Inland land just south of Lake Sam Rayburn to hunt for petrified wood. This may be our last chance to go as Ron is considering giving up his lease. The land has been purchased by another company, and the lease rate is going up dramatically.

Everyone has always enjoyed this trip due to the beauty of the area and the quantity of petrified wood. The collecting is done in a shallow spring-fed creek bed with wood pieces and logs everywhere. There is some palm wood, but it's getting scarce. One should wear foot wear that can get wet. Tennis shoes, boots or wet shoes. Shorts are best due to the water, but long pants are fine. We have usually gone earlier in the year, so there may be a bit of poison ivy and mosquitoes present. Rock hammers aren't necessary. What you do need is a manner in which to carry the wood out. Some use 5 gal. buckets, others use backpacks. A two wheel dolly helps to bring big pieces up the hill to the parking area.

This trip will involve a certain amount of effort due to walking a rock filled creek bed, and toting the materials out.

The date of the trip is May 9. The meeting place is the Stump Restaurant on Hwy 255 at 9:00 am. The restaurant is on the right a couple miles past the Lake Sam Rayburn Dam. It takes at least 3 hours to get to the restaurant, and everyone should get there a few minutes early to sign release forms and visit. We will be going to a lock gated property, so don't be late. The rockhounding portion of the trip will only last 3 to 4 hours. In the past, some have camped on the lake or stayed at a local motel so they wouldn't have to drive down so early in the morning. For those wanting to go, please let me know, and I'll let you know who else wants to go for car pooling prospects.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Pete Keiser (903) 984-2004





## Carat or Karat?

The carat is a unit of mass used for measuring gems and pearls. In past centuries, different countries each had their own carat unit, all roughly equivalent to the mass of a carob seed. Carob seeds were used as weights on precision scales because of their reputation for having a uniform weight.

The metric carat, exactly 200 milligrams, was adopted in 1907 at the Fourth General Conference on Weights and Measures, and soon afterwards in many countries around the world (however, Britain procrastinated until 1963).

Compiled from *wikipedia.org* and *www.sizes.com*.

The karat is a measure of the pureness of a precious metal, such as gold, with 24k being the highest purity. In the United States it is spelled with an initial k, to distinguish it from the carat, a unit of mass; but in much of the world it is spelled with a c. Pure gold is quite soft and not suitable for objects like rings; a ring is made of 18k gold alloy to improve performance, not to save on the cost of materials. From *www.sizes.com*.

*~From Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter, 2/09; via Stone Chipper 03/09*



## Try This Website

Here is a great website particularly for those of you in the mineral interest group. This is the website of the Mineralogy Club of Antwerp, Belgium (yes it's in English). From this home page you can go to sub-pages on collecting, shopping, education, software, mineral images and their "Virtual Quarry" where you can list minerals for sale, trade, or look for items on your want-list. There are also some great photos of fluorescent minerals. Some, (and you will really have to look hard for them), you can turn the fluorescent lamps on and off.

Their "Software" page has some really fine programs for organizing your mineral specimens. Demo copies are available for download. Some are priced very reasonably, others are outrageous. Under the "Education" page you will find links to museum mineral collections (with excellent photographs) all over the world.

There is also a mineral collector's directory with individuals from all over the world. Some would like to correspond with others who have similar interests such as collecting, cutting and polishing, faceting, etc.

Give this site a try, but be forewarned, it is a lot like potato chips. It's hard to put the bag down until all of them are gone. You'll find this site at *www.minerant.org*. *~submitted by Louis Lee via Stone Chipper 03/09*



## The Desautels Trophy Comes to Austin!

Who is he and why does the trophy have his name on it? Paul Earnest Desautels was the most influential American curator of the 20th century and was the Curator of Gems and Minerals in the Department of Mineral Sciences of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution) in Washington, DC, from 1957 to 1982.

Desautels' influence on the amateur mineralogical community was profound. He gave hundreds of public lectures and wrote voluminous correspondence, including a column on museums in the *Mineralogical Record*. He also worked as an early Associate Editor of the *Mineralogical Record* and penned a series of popular books on mineral and gem collecting - most notably *The Mineral Kingdom* in 1968, and *The Gem Kingdom* in 1970. His aesthetic sensibilities and his overall connoisseurship in minerals were unequaled, and his charming, charismatic, and sophisticated manner made him a sought after personality throughout the mineral world.

In 1979 the new species Desautelsite was named in his honor, recognizing his successful "efforts in expanding the [National] collection and assuring its pre-eminence." In 1991 he was awarded the Carnegie Mineralogical Award for his contributions in promoting mineralogical preservation, conservation, and education. At the same time, a new award called the Desautels Trophy was created in his honor by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show as an ultimate recognition of mineral collecting connoisseurship. We are thrilled to be the 2009 recipients of the Desautels Trophy. Cheers, Stretch & Lynn Young.

\*Excerpts taken from the Biographical Archive at the *Mineralogical Record*.

Via Stone Chipper 03/09



### I Get It Now!

By Stretch & Lynn Young, AGMS Members

Over the years I have seen many a blank face when asked what I was holding in my hand and I would respond, "It's a pseudomorph." The problem was when I explained that I was holding a copper after azurite, not everyone understood what I was talking about. Some people learn visually as I do. They knew what copper was and they knew what azurite was, but what was this "after" stuff, and why is the pseudo thingy in your hand not blue like all the other azurites I've seen?

The solution took about 15 years to put together as I wanted the pieces to be as close in appearance as possible for the visual experience. It occurred to me that if I were to put together sets containing the two minerals involved in creating the pseudomorph, along with the actual resulting pseudomorph, then people could see for themselves what was involved in making a pseudomorph.

Over the last year while competing with this case, we've heard numerous times, "I get it now!" There is nothing more satisfying than to see that smile on someone's face when they finally get it. On top of that, several judges stated it was probably the best educational case they had ever seen.

The latest honor for this case came this year in the form of the Friends of Mineralogy Award, given to the best educational case by an individual at Tucson. You can see a few of these sets in the January 2009 supplemental issue of *The Mineralogical Record* called "Private Mineral Collections in Texas" on page 171.



## Big Sky Country – Montana on My Mind

By Doug True, AFMS/NFMS Convention Chair

The Billings Gem and Mineral Club invite you to attend the AFMS/NFMS Show and Convention. Come spend some time with us and see the wonders of the Big Sky country and experience a time of your life. We hope you plan on spending some time in our state, visiting the many sights or hunting for Montana agate, Bear Canyon fortification agate, petrified wood, or fossils from the Hell Creek, Pierre and Bear paw formations. Join us for the many field trips scheduled for after this show. We will spend some time on the next issue talking about each field trip and what you may expect to find. Many special exhibits are scheduled for this show. We're excited about...

- A Moon rock from NASA, which has never been to Montana and should be a great draw for the area.
- An Ice age exhibit including a cave bear.
- Outstanding ruby and corundum, Yogo and Montana sapphires, and Gold exhibits.
- The Rock Food Table from Texas.
- World class collections of Montana Agate, Dryhead, Fairburn and Tepee Canyon agates.

We also look forward to seeing your special exhibits, so please take some time and think about what showcases you would like to enter, and also a collection or your craftsmanship that would make a great competition exhibit. Let's pull together and show the world what you have to offer. We expect a large number of our neighbors from Canada to attend the show also.

We hope you plan your vacation around this show and visit Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, the Dinosaur Trail including Makoshika State Park, and Little Big Horn Battle Field where General Custer fought. Besides collecting rocks, you should try out some fishing, camping, and hiking. (Montana has some of the best fishing in the U.S.) Watch for more information in the next several newsletters. For registration information and exhibit forms go to [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org).  
*~A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 3/09; via Stone Chipper 03/09*



### NOTE FROM OUR SHOW CHAIRMAN

It is not too early to start thinking about next years show. This year we ran a little short on items for the wheel of fortune, so I was thinking some of our club members may like to learn how to make cabochons to set in findings for the show next year. I will be happy to teach anyone how to do it on my equipment here at my shop. Anyone interested need only contact me to set up a time when I will be home to do so. I am available most of the time until August when our show schedule becomes concentrated. So the sooner we start the more we can make. Call me at 903-581-4068 or 903-316-2967 or email me at:

[kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net). Keith Harmon

**CLUB OFFICERS**

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

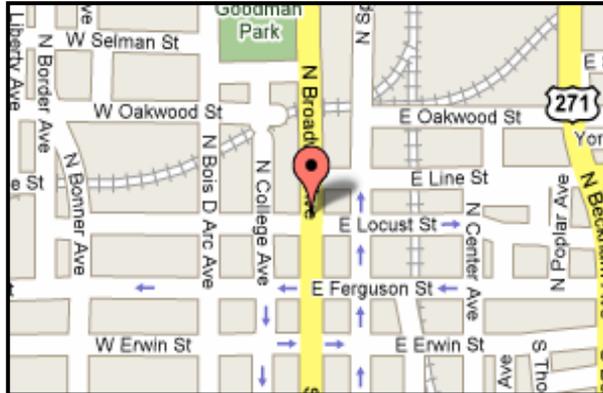
**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**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



**EDITOR:** Susan Burch 936-615-5397  
20427 US. Hwy 69 S.  
Alto, TX 75925  
**E-Mail:** rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com