



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



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VOLUME 36

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

Coming Shows, 2010

MARCH 20-21

LIVE OAK, TX (San Antonio)

Southwest G & M Society

Live Oak Civic Center

APRIL 10-11

ABILENE, TX

Central Texas G & M Society

Abilene Civic Center

APRIL 16-18

ALPINE, TX

Chihuahuan Desert G&MS

Kokernot Lodge

APRIL 17

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR

Central Arkansas G,M&GS

Burns Park

Elder Johnson Pavilion

APRIL 24-25

WACO, TX

Waco Gem & Mineral Club

TSTC Industrial Trade Center

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a great meeting and was very well attended. Folks reported that they had a great time on the field trip to Lake Texoma. There are a lot of lapidary activities happening now and coming up soon. The wire-wrapping class was on March 5th and 6th, at Gander Mtn. and Tom Stringfellow will be offering classes on etching and precious metal clay, at his workshop, the first to begin on April 8th.

We are looking into changing our tax exempt status to allow people that donate to the club to be able to take a tax exemption. We also have some leads on property to build a club house on.

The Discover Science Place is currently working with us on a fluorescent mineral display. I hope to have updates at the April 5th meeting.

Once again, this shows what can be done when we put our minds to it. We might even have a workshop before the next show.

Rip



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hi all, hope you enjoyed the meeting presentation this month as much as I did. WOW, amazing stuff! I've included a few more pictures from our January show, hope you enjoy. Look for pictures from a field trip or two and possibly some from the classes being held recently and in the future, in the upcoming issues.

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March Meeting Minutes 2010

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:08 p.m. March 1, 2010 in the meeting room of the Discovery Science Place on Broadway Street in Tyler, TX. There were 30 members and 3 visitors present.

Motion to accept minutes of the February 2010 meeting was made by Becky Whisenant, seconded by Susan Burch and unanimously approved.

Treasurer, Jeri Kitchens, gave a full report of attendance at the January club show, including paid admission for all 3 days and free admission to students on the first Kid's Day. The monthly fiscal statement was given.

There was no old business brought before the club.

Don Campbell gave a report on the field trip to Lake Texoma with 9 members showing up in a driving rain on Friday but Saturday was a beautiful day for an outdoor excursion. Several members spoke about their finds and adventures. The next trip will be April 10th to the Ash Grove Quarry in Midlothian, TX to look for pyritized ammonites, pyritized septerian nodules, shark's teeth and pyrite nodules. Pete Kaiser had provided handouts with maps and information about the trip.

Don Campbell spoke about the need for a change in the non-profit status of the club. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for Don to pursue the status change. Don also described the fluorescent display that the Discovery Science Place is requesting input from the club in designing, laying out and possible specimen donations. One option to be explored is the donation by the club of a large fluorescent light for the display.

Gene Goar requested the authority to form a committee to explore possibility of obtaining land and building a clubhouse. Motion was made to form the committee, seconded and unanimously approved. Tentative exploration committee members put forth were, Don Campbell, Rip Criss, Keith Harmon, Jack Shull, Pete Kaiser, chaired by Gene.

Tom Stringfellow is hosting etching classes on April 8 and April 10, with only a \$20 cost for supplies to be used. Future classes will include chain mail construction by Robert Ortega and other classes by Tom.

A short break for refreshments and door prizes was followed by the video presentation, "What's Hot in Tucson" recorded at the world's largest event for dealers in 2009.

Following the program, Susan Burch asked for the floor to thank members for participating in having their club newsletter emailed to them instead of the traditional USPS mail; it has reduced the mailed copies to about 20 per month in stead of 80+, at a great postage and time savings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary

ETCHING CLASS

Course Description:

We will make cuff bracelets 1' to about 1 1/2" wide using NuGold alloy (gold look-a-like). (Those who wish to make other items than bracelets can certainly do so, just let me know so I will have the proper gauge and size of metal.)

DESIGN will be the keynote here!!! Come prepared to stretch your imagination. The actual etching is quite easy. After this class you should be able to make your items at home.

Class will consist of one, three-four hour class.

Class size: up to five people.

Location: Tom Stringfellow's studio on East Lake Tyler in the East Shore Estates (16856 Cardinal Lane, Troup, TX 75789, 903-839-6744), maps were at the March meeting. You may wish to contact Tom for more info if you were not at that meeting.

Supplies and Tools Needed:

Supplies: The kit consists of two NuGold metal blanks. Ferric Chloride etchant, clear tape, and polish for the finished item. KIT PRICE: \$20.00

Tools Needed: If you have rubber stamps you would like to use for stamping a pattern on your item, please bring them. We have a large supply of stamps in the studio (Thanks to Suzan Chapman!!), as well as permanent ink pads to use. You are perfectly welcome to freehand draw your designs and decorations onto your piece.....lots of cool tricks here!!

BRING your SKETCH PAD and Notebook. You will need to work out your design ideas. Paint pens and all other tools will be supplied.



Dates:

Thursday, April 8 OR Saturday, April 10
10:00am-3:00pm 10:00am-3:00pm

****BRING YOUR BAG LUNCH****

~~~~You **MUST** be a Paid-up Member of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society to participate in this class.

(Photo examples found via the internet)

**2010 ANNUAL CENTRAL ARKANSAS  
ROCK, GEM & MINERAL SWAP**

**APRIL 17TH, 2010  
8 A.M.—5 P.M.**

**BUY, SELL, TRADE**

**Free admission, no set-up charge  
Limited tables available, bring your own or tailgate  
Open to all area rock clubs and general public**

**BURNS PARK  
ELDER JOHNSON PAVILLION  
(Next to the visitor's center)  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
(I-40, Exit 150—Military Drive)**

**SPONSORED BY**

**CENTRAL ARKANSAS GEM, MINERAL & GEOLOGY SOCIETY  
[www.centralrockhound.org](http://www.centralrockhound.org)**

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GENE GOAR FLEXING HIS 'FOSSIL' MUSCLE AT THE JANUARY SHOW



TOM STRINGFELLOW SHOOTING THE BREEZE



**Pictured above are Waco G & M S members at the Tyler Show. They are (l. to r.) Sandi Horton, Karen Wood, Alice Linkous, and Joe Linkous. (photo courtesy of Sandi Horton) Joe has been recognized by the Federation as their Rockhound of the Year. Via Gritty Greetings 3/10**



## SHOP TIPS

Cutting geodes in the right place can be tricky. Try rolling the geode on a flat floor several times and mark the “up” side each time. Then cut on a plane parallel with the floor. Crystal growth inside the geode is probably most developed at the top and bottom of its resting position.

~From Golden Spike News 6/00, via The Backbender's Gazette 12/06, S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter 3-4/07



**Chinese Ivory**  
**By J.W. Downs**  
**Member Austin Paleontological Society (and AGMS)**

I have always wondered how China became famous for its carved ivory since that country appears completely devoid of elephants. The answer was found in an old Historical Geology book written just before World War II.

Woolly mammoths (*mammonteus primigenius*) ranged widely over glaciated areas during the last ice ages, extending northward into Alaska and across Siberia where their skeletons and tusks are still incredibly numerous in the frozen soil. Half of the ivory of commerce was derived from this source at the time this book was printed. Siberian ivory was imported into China as early as the fourth century B.C., and began to be extensively transported into Europe early in the nineteenth century. Between 1800 and 1850, the annual sale of tusks at the trading center of Yakutsk averaged about eighteen tons, and up to 1940, no fewer than 46,750 pairs of tusks have been recovered. The tusks of woolly mammoths were huge – much larger than modern elephants. It is possible that the ivory used on early pianos and late harpsichords made in England and Europe came from this source. (Victor Borga said that his piano had black and yellow keys – his elephant smoked.)

The remains of some Alaskan and Siberian mammoths are remarkably well preserved in the permafrost. Part of a baby mammoth recovered from Alaska has been on display in a freezer at the American Museum of Natural History, and an entire adult mammoth has been recently recovered from the permafrost of Siberia. This leads to the interesting possibility that there may be enough viable DNA that at some time in the future, scientists will be able to clone mammoths. Exactly what they will do with them is another matter, but they would be an interesting attraction at zoos.

Duplicating the Pleistocene environment could also be tricky. Woolly mammoths became extinct in Alaska and Siberia shortly after the last ice age, approximately ten thousand years ago and there is strong suspicion that humans contributed to their demise. The last hold-outs were on Wrangell Island between Alaska and Siberia where they lived until seven thousand years ago (according to a recent NOVA program on PBS.) In the severe environment and the accompanying shortage of food, the mammoths shrank in size until they were only about four feet high, much like the horses of the Shetland Islands that evolved into Shetland Ponies.

~From Paleo Newsletter, 5/05; via Stone Chipper 08/09

**CLUB OFFICERS**

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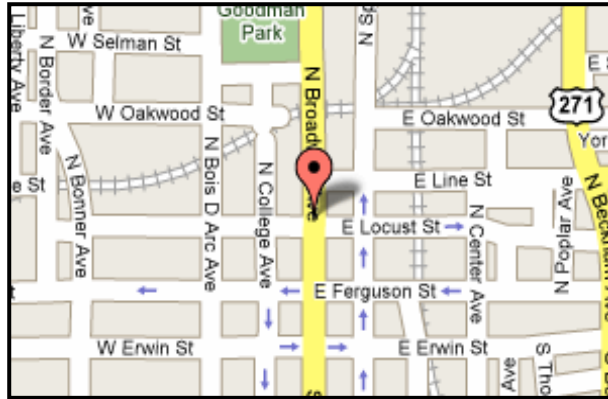
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Jacksonville, Texas 75766

**MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:** Don Campbell 903-566-6061  
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Tyler, TX, 75701

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

**SHOW CHAIRMAN:** Keith Harmon 903-581-4068  
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Tyler, TX 75703

**CLUB ADDRESS:** East Texas Gem & Mineral Society  
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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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