



# ROCK-N-ROSE



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VOLUME 35

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009

## Coming Shows, 2009

**April 25-26**

Waco, TX

Waco Gem & Mineral Club

(903) 389-8311

**May 16-17**

Lubbock, TX

Lubbock Gem & Mineral Soc.

*asscott3@windstream.net*

## PRESEDENT'S MESSAGE

Want to thank those members who volunteered for the Kids Day committee to investigate the feasibility of having a Kids Day on the Friday prior to the annual show. This is something that could have a positive impact on the club and needed active involvement of the membership.

Also want folks to think about looking for a facility for a workshop in the Tyler area. It's been my experience that people want to join a club to learn more about it and how to do things (like make cabs, wire wrap, intarsia, gem trees, etc.). Having a workshop would enable us to provide that instruction to both adults and juniors and build the club membership. Please think about it.

Hope to have seen some of you at the Lake Nacogdoches field trip on 4/18. Don Campbell gave an excellent program on finding sites like this and what to expect when you get there. If anyone else knows of a good local collecting site - let us know.

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Now they are not as cute as the one's the club puts together, but I had to include this 'pet' rock group. You may see it again, lol, it's just too cute.





### April Meeting Minutes 2009

(Locked out. Members arriving for the April meeting gathered outside the locked doors of the Discovery Science Place. The cold wind forced everyone to huddle near the entry way and talk about rocks, recent trips and coming events to keep warm, until a representative of the DSP showed up with a new key. It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and would have been fun except the mercury was on a nose dive on its way to a record-breaking freezing night in east Texas. The lady with the key was given a round of applause when she arrived.)

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:35 p.m., April 6 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 March 2, 2009 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter. Jon Laverty made motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Jack Shull and passed by unanimous approval. A total of 22 club members and 1 visitor were present.

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

Keith Harmon was next with a talk about adding a kid's day to the annual club show, an idea first introduced at the March meeting and covered at length in those meeting minutes. Keith outlined pros and cons and reminded members that he was initially approached by Tyler school district representatives who were enthusiastic about the idea. Options were reviewed as well as the need for volunteers to work on Thursday. Another proposal was that the club could use the Discovery Science Place facilities, which would require more booths and displays to be set up by club members as well as more volunteers on hand to explain and do demonstrations. The proposal to have the kid's day in conjunction with the annual show would involve a potential 21 Tyler elementary schools with approximately 1500 students, if the exhibit is limited to 5<sup>th</sup> graders only. Pete Keiser voiced several questions as did other members. Following discussions, there was unanimous approval to form a committee to present pros and cons of the idea to Club members at the next meeting.

Gene had information about a wire wrapping class by Pat Nixon, tentatively scheduled for late May. Twelve people have signed up for the class, which is normally limited to 6 students so there will be 2 classes on consecutive days. More details will be available at the next club meeting and via emails.

Rip asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Club and Laura Wilson quickly nominated Becky Whisenant; the motion was seconded and she was duly elected.

Don Campbell gave a brief report on the recent North Sulphur River field trip; with several members adding hilarious footnotes.

Pete Keiser reminded every one of the May 9<sup>th</sup> field trip for petrified wood near Jasper, TX and that this may be the last opportunity to gather at this site.

President Criss awarded door prizes and a short break for refreshments was called.



Continued from page 2.

Don Campbell gave the program on searching for fossils of the Eocene era and the process of layering in coastal areas. Don had slides to demonstrate the build up of silt and sand as water levels rise and fall. The club field trip on April 18 to Lake Nacogdoches will focus on the Weches Formation. Don also had a large map from the Bureau of Economic Geology, State of Texas, which showed the differing formations as they wind from the Sabine River across southern East Texas. He also recommended a book named the Geology of Texas, Vol. I. Don ended his program with an invitation for audience members to come and study the map and other displays.

Rip adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



### SCFMS News

A new club formed in Huntsville, Texas in June 2008. We want to welcome them as they have joined the South Central Federation. The club meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month, except December, at the Carriage Inn, 2805 Lake Road, Huntsville. They have 25 adult and 4 junior members. Check out their web site at [www.pwgme.org](http://www.pwgme.org).

Congratulations to Jean Wallace, who was selected as the 2009 South Central Federation Honoree for the AFMS Scholarship Award for her contributions to earth science education. Along with her late husband, Emmette, Jean has exhibited their collection of fossils and minerals at numerous shows through out the United States and Canada. She has generously donated hundreds of fossils to gem club members and others who were involved in displaying specimens for public education in schools, museums, universities, and public libraries. Jean has contributed her skills to the SCFMS in many ways over the years. She became an Endowment Fund Patron in 1989. Locally, she was the editor for the newsletter of the Paleontological Society for several years, and editor for *Pickin's and Diggin's*, newsletter of the Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society from 1946 to the present (over 60 years!) Jean is in the process of selecting two graduate students in our region to receive \$2,000 per year from the AFMS. The students and Jean will be honored at our annual meeting in Temple later this year.

*~excerpted from SCFMS Newsletter, 3-4/09; via Stone Chipper 04/09*



## American Federation Endowment Raffle

As you may or may not know, the American Federation has a raffle, benefiting the American Federation Endowment Fund. Each of the Federations are asked to donate something to the raffle. The raffle will be at the AFMS Show, which this year is in Billings, Montana.

As you may or may not know, I have taken the position of Representative for the South Central Federation. This means I get to sell tickets and gather donations for the AFMS Endowment Fund and Raffle. At his time, the SCFMS has given three items, for the raffle and a fourth item forthcoming, valued at approximately \$125 each. These items can be from an individual or from a club.

This is my plea, I will mail you tickets, which sell for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You can resell them or give them away or keep them yourself. Our Federation is guaranteed one of the items. The way the drawing will be, this year, we will put all the tickets that a Federation sells into a drawing box. Shake them up and draw one ticket from that Federation's participation. This will guarantee one prize for each Federation. After the Federation drawing, all the remaining tickets will be put into a tumbler and tickets drawn till all the items are given away.

If you would like to help the Endowment Fund, please contact me by:

E mail:           bill@rockfoodtable.com  
Telephone:       361-387-5190  
Snail mail:       619 Wright Street, Robstown, Texas, 78389-3815

Thank you and hope to see you at a Gem Show, in the near future. I will also have tickets for sale, if you see me.



### SHOP NOTES

Renovate brittle dop wax by adding a piece of bees wax the size of a pea to 1/4 pound of dop wax.

Try cementing three pieces of tiger eye together so that the grain is perpendicular to the next. Cabochons and other stones can then be cut with interesting chatoyancy effects.

*~From T-Town Rockhound 7/98, via AFMS Newsletter & Telephone City Crystal 2/09, The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 4/09*

Line the bottom of your rock saw with a double thickness of burlap sacking. When it is time to clean again, pick up the corners and lay it on the saw vise and carriage to drain overnight. This way you dispose of all the 'gunk' easily and the oil is clean for continued use.

*~From T-Town Rockhound 4/01, via AFMS Newsletter & Telephone City Crystal 02/09, The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 4/09 via Stone Chipper 04/09*





## Summer Rockhound

By Cindy Lind

The 'Skeeter and the Rockhound both  
Went out to hunt one day.  
The Rockhound wanted specimens,  
The 'Skeeter wanted prey!  
The Rockhound found a likely spot  
And settled with his gear,  
He'd dug a short time when he hears  
A buzzing in his ear.  
The Rockhound swatted at the noise  
And stood to look around.  
He missed the 'Sketter but he saw  
A great stone on the ground!  
The Rockhound bent to lift the stone  
His backside in the air.  
The 'Skeeter took advantage then  
And bit the Rockhound there.  
The Rockhound jumped and squashed the bug  
His bottom to defend.  
The Rockhound and the 'Skeeter had  
Both got it in THE END!

~From *Gulfport Gems* 07/08, via *Beehive Buzzer* 09/08, *The Calgary Lapidary Journal* 10/08; via *Stone Chipper* 11/08

## The Importance of Crystal Structure

By  
Les Connally

Departing from my usual "Gemstone of the Month" article, I want to get a little bit technical and address some faceting issues, especially with regard to Tourmaline.

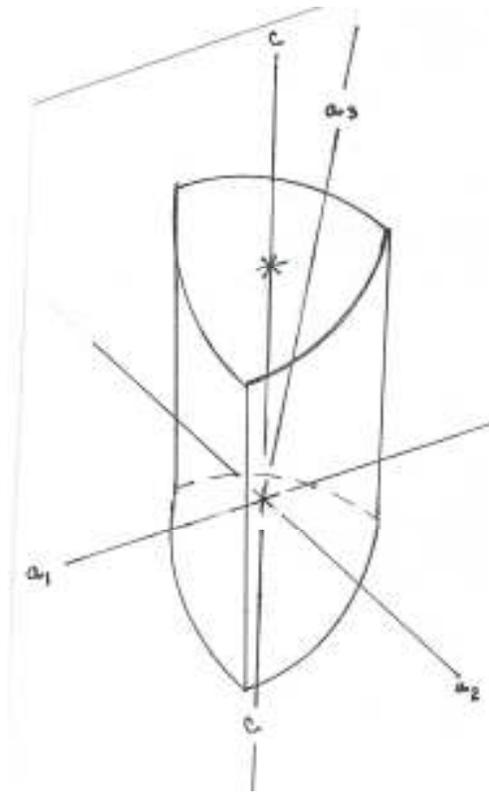
First we need to look at the crystal structure of Tourmaline. Tourmaline is of the Hexagonal Ditrigonal Pyramidal class. It usually forms long striated crystals that form cross sections that resemble a somewhat rounded triangle. Close inspection of the rounded cross section reveals the rather obscure hexagonal nature, but not forming a pure hexagon, such as quartz or sapphire (see fig.1.).



Fig. 1.

Typically Tourmaline forms elongated crystals with the striations along the surface of the long sides. Primary crystal axes are the "c" which runs perpendicular to the cross section of the crystal, and 3 "a" axes, That run 120 degrees apart and all perpendicular to the "c" or main axis (fig. 2.).

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Frequently the crystals are terminated in a prismatic end.

Fig. 2

Why is all this important? It is for several reasons. The material is usually **anisotropic**, which means that there are different physical and optical properties in the different crystal axes. For instance, the index of refraction in the “c” axis is different from that of the “a” axis. It doesn’t necessarily follow, but the hardness is usually different in these axes. A third property of which faceters are most interested in is that of **dichoric** property. In looking through the “a” axis one may observe a significantly different color than in looking through the “c” axis. Quite frequently the “c” axis of tourmaline may be totally opaque. This dichoric property will greatly impact the way that one orients the stone for faceting.

I like to obtain Tourmaline that has an eye clear “c” axis as this can give two different color options that the final faceted stone may take. In thinking about the cross section profile of most tourmaline crystals that have eye clear “c” axes, the shape of the crystal profile lends itself well to the cutting of a trilliant or other triangular shapes. I really like to cut trilliants as the threefold symmetry provides a fine brilliance.

Now lets have a look of that beautiful green tourmaline that has a perfectly opaque “c” axis. It only stands to reason that you don’t want to cut this stone as in the previous paragraph, as no light would enter the table or be reflected back. Orient the stone with the table facing one of the “a” axes. Now you may cut a stone of many various shapes and still obtain some brilliance. Probably the most frequent pattern cut from this orientation is the emerald cut, with the long axis in line with the “c” axis. Now only a portion of the short axis will not allow light to enter. This will probably only be the girdle that is perfectly perpendicular to the “c” axis.

I have found that most of the quality pink tourmaline, at least what I have seen, has an eye clear “c” axis as well as some of the lighter green Maine crystals. Incidentally I really like the lighter colored crystals as they really seem to have a lot more sparkle.

There are other stones that have the anisotropic properties, that I will not go into at this point, except to say that Zircon is also dichoric and proper orientation of zircon will produce a more brilliant stone.

Happy Faceting

via The Rock Prattle 02/09



### CLUB OFFICERS

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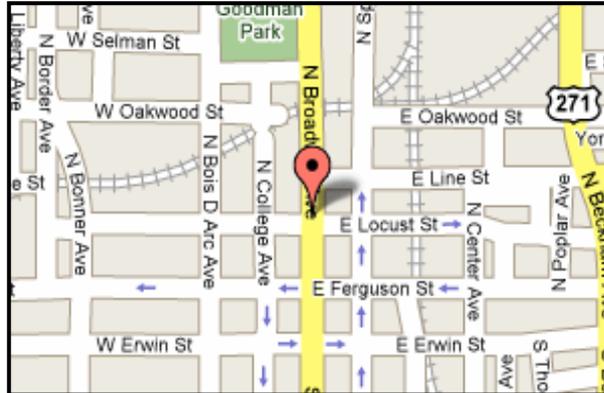
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**THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.**

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

**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.



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