ROCK-N-ROSE

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1 VOLUME 39 TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 5 MAY 2013

Coming Shows, 2013

May 25-26—FORT WORTH, TEXAS:

62nd Annual Show; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Amon Carter Exhibits Bldg., Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults $5, seniors, students and military $4, children (under 16) free; "Timeless Treasures", more than 25 dealers, exhibits, kids' games, hourly door prizes, grand prize, silent auction; Web site: fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

June 28-30—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS:

Annual show; EGI Show; Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults $3, children free; beads, fine jewelry, fine jade jewelry, real pearls, sterling silver jewelry, pewter findings, spacers, beading supplies, beading class; Web site: www.egishows.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The second East Texas Gem & Mineral Society Rock/Mineral sub group meeting was held on May 16th, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at my home at 3319 Omega, Tyler, Texas 75701.

We spent the first hour reviewing the Periodic Table of Elements, and some of the physical properties of minerals. The second hour we discussed the world famous Tsumeb copper mine and minerals in Southwest Africa. There were samples on hand to observe. If you have any questions regarding this group you can call me at 903-520-4085 for information and directions.

Thanks.

Don Campbell

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JUNE MEETING PROGRAM:

Gem and Mineral Show and Tell

Bring your collected specimens, cabbing or jewelry projects or anything gem and mineral related to present to the club. Talk about it for five minutes in front of the group or just show it around.

MAY MEETING MINUTES

President Don Campbell called the meeting to order @ 7:00 p.m.. Bill Faulkner introduced new member Bruce Walker, who found out about the club from a flier at the library. He was welcomed to the group. Don mentioned the door prizes and the smoky quartz specimen donated by Becky McMichael.

Colleen Hayes made a motion to accept the minutes from last month as published in the newsletter, Penny Hawkins 2nd and motion passed.

Bill announced for Terry Roberts, who was absent, that the lapidary arts sub group will meet Saturday May 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Terry's house. They will do cabbing and demonstrations of machines used. Directions are on the website.

Don reported on the fossil/mineral sub group meeting and announced that it has been decided to eliminate the fossil part for the sake of time and devote the meetings to covering minerals and rocks. They will meet on the 3rd Thursday each month at Don's house at 7 p.m.

One hour will be spent on mineral ID and one hour on a specific mineral or mine.

Don then requested volunteers to present programs at our monthly meetings. The June meeting will be show & tell and everyone should bring a favorite item related to our hobby and be prepared to share information about it.

A thank you note from Carolyn Davis, wife of Al Davis, club member who passed away a few months ago, was read, thanking the club for our donation to the federation scholarship fund in his memory.

Becky Whisenant announced that Suzan Chapman, secretary, was absent due to recuperation from a recent automobile accident. Colleen mentioned that member Pete Keiser's brother passed away in San Diego and he is dealing with family matters. Our prayers and thoughts go out to all these members.

Becky discussed the field trip to the Wegner Crystal Mine in Mt. Ida, Ark. on May 18 and passed out information sheets.

There was no old business and no new business.

Door prizes were distributed and, after a short break, Don presented a program on quartz crystals, their geologic history and mineralogy. He explained that most veins of these quartz crystals are found in the sandstone layers of the two formations in the Ordivician strata where they form. This strata stretches across central Ark into Ok and is a result of folded layers of rock resulting from an inland sea between 300 - 500 million years old.

Silent auction was finished and meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant

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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The 4/13 Mini Miners Monthly also has a two page article by Emma Fajcz, about her visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

She includes a link to an awesome virtual tour of the museum: <www.mnh.si.edu/panoramas/> This picture is a screen capture of one of the tour views.

Check it out! Via Fredericksburg Rockhounds newsletter, May 2013

LAPIDARY/JEWELRY SUBGROUP MEETING

The Lapidary/Jewelry (L/J) subgroup held its third meeting at the home of Terry Roberts on May 11. There was a good turnout with nine members attending the meeting, including Kenny and Vicki Polve, Penny Hawkins, Dee Clifton, Suzan Chapman, Susan Burch, Becky McMichael, Bill Faulkner and Terry Roberts. The group had an interesting discussion on making cabochons and Terry, and Bill Faulkner talked about the pros and cons of the different types of cabbing machines.

The members then split into two groups, one for each of the cabbing machines available to the group. Becky McMichael completed a flower garden agate cab, while Susan Burch cut and worked on polishing two llanite cabs.

The L/J subgroup will hold its next meeting at Bill Faulkner's home at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 8. We will continue working on cabs until all members who want to learn how to use a cab machine have had a chance to complete a cab. Keith Harmon has graciously offered to let the L/J group borrow one of his cabbing machines to train more of the new members.

Photos taken by Kenny Polve: Above, Terry Roberts explains the workings of his cabbing machine, with six different polishing/ grinding wheels. At right, Bill Faulkner shows his cabbing machine that also includes a rock saw and exchangeable wheels.

EMERALD

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word *smaragdus*, meaning *green* in Greek, was mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C.

Today, most of the world's emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

Via the American Gem Society

"Junior Rockhounds Corner"

The Biggest Crystals Ever Found

You are probably used to seeing crystals that are about as tiny as a fingernail up to specimens that are about as big as your head. However, some minerals, when allowed to grow in very special conditions, can be bigger than a car!

To the left are gypsum crystals that were discovered in 2000, deep underground at Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico. Some of the crystals are up to 40 feet long and are estimated to weigh up to 55 tons… each! These crystals are easily the largest gypsum crystals found anywhere in the world. They may very well be the largest crystals of any mineral ever found!

Text from Mini Miners Monthly 4/13, at <www.diamonddanpublications.net>

Photos from the Internet (MMM only has a sketch).

For more info browse the Internet for "naica crystal cave".

VIA Fredericksburg Rockhounds newsletter, May 2013

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Book Review for a Great New Kid's Book:
A Rock Is Lively
by Jim Brace-Thompson,
AFMS Junior Activities Chair

I work in academic publishing and as a result, I get sent to annual conventions of the American Library Association, where the huge halls of city convention centers are filled to bursting with publishers and their books. In addition to fulfilling the duties of my day job, I always make a point of cruising the rows of trade publishers and children's book publishers to see if there's anything new worth recommending to clubs with pebble pups and juniors.

This year, I made a real gem of a find: **A Rock Is Lively**, by author Dianna Hutts Aston and illustrator Sylvia Long. Published in 2012 by Chronicle Books in San Francisco, this is as gorgeous to peruse as it is informative to read.

Long's colorfully detailed paintings of rocks and minerals on the cover caught my eye, as did the poster they were handing out for free in the booth. As I read, I became hooked, learning new things that I immediately incorporated into a school presentation I had scheduled for the following week—such as the melting temperature of rocks, the oldest rocks found on earth, uses of rocks, and more.

A brief and easy read, with fun-filled facts on each page beautifully illustrated with richly colorful paintings, this is the perfect book to get for your club library and/or to recommend to your younger pebble pups. It'll show them that rocks are not only interesting and fun—but lively, too!

From AFMS Newsletter 4/13

Herkimer Diamond Quarts Crystals

"Herkimer Diamonds" is the name given to the doubly terminated quartz crystals found in Herkimer County, New York and surrounding areas. Examples of these crystals are shown in the photo. Note that these crystals have the typical hexagonal habit of quartz, however, instead of having a termination on one end, they are doubly terminated. This is a result of the crystals growing with very little or no contact with their host rock. Such doubly terminated crystals are very rare and this is part of what makes Herkimer Diamonds so popular with mineral collectors.

The host rock for Herkimer Diamonds is the Cambrian-age, Little Falls Dolostone. The Little Falls Dolostone was deposited about 500 million years ago and the Herkimer Diamonds formed in cavities within the dolostone. These cavities are frequently lined with drusy quartz crystals and often are coated with a tarry hydrocarbon.

Although Herkimer County, New York is the location for which these crystals are named, similar doubly terminated quartz crystals have been found in a few other locations, including Arizona, Afghanistan, Norway, Ukraine and China. They have the same appearance but cannot rightfully be called "Herkimers".

Via Stoney Statements 5/13

SCFMS 2013
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
AFMS ENDOWMENT DRAWING FOR 2013
DRAWING TO BE HELD DURING THE AFMS CONVENTION AND SHOW
September 18-22, 2013, Jacksonville, FL

Interest from AFMS Endowment Fund investments is used to support numerous programs that benefit our affiliated member clubs. In the past several years, interest money has:

* Purchased badges for the juniors program which are given at no charge to clubs with organized junior activities programs.
* Digitized the old AFMS slide programs that have been distributed at no charge to the regional federations.
* Purchased new commercially produced programs for the regional federation libraries.
* Supported the Judges Training Program.

TICKETS ARE $5 EACH OR 5 FOR $20.

Many door prized have been collected.
Such as: Caveman Clothes Pin- estimated value: $75
(NFMS), Float Copper Specimen-estimated value: $75
(MWF), An agate and jasper channel inlay in the style of
Scottish Victorian jewelry of the 1800's-estimated value of $350 (AFMS), and many many more.
Deadline to have tickets returned to your regional federation representative

Catherine Rouchon of Baton Rouge G&M is August 2.
5845 Winchester Lane,
Clinton La 70722
225-683-9264, email: rouchonc@starband.net

Via Gritty Greetings 5/13

GYPSUM

Gypsum (CaSO4-2H2O) is a fairly common mineral that comes in several forms and has a myriad of uses. It is a sedimentary mineral that forms by the evaporation of saline lakes or restricted marine bays, which become cut-off and allow for evaporation of the water, leaving behind the dissolved gypsum. For thick deposits, the replenishment of saline water and evaporation cycle are repeated over and over again.

There are several active gypsum mines in the Hill Country; the closest one is the Cherry Mtn. Mine, operated by The Standard Gypsum Company and located a few miles northwest of Fredericksburg.

Common gypsum is fine to medium grained, white, gray or pinkish in color and usually contains thin layers of shale or other impurities. Having a hardness of 2 on the Mohs scale, it is easily scratched by a fingernail. A freshly broken sample will sparkle because of the countless exposed cleavage plane of tiny crystals.

The most common use for gypsum is for drywall, plaster (gypsum is Greek for plaster) and fertilizer. But you may be surprised to know it is also used in toothpaste, wine making, beer brewing, in white bread and ice cream. Ah— nothing like a good bowl of gypsum !!!

Gypsum also comes in other forms which are much more attractive:

Selenite, also called moonstone, is a clear crystalline form that can be a very attractive specimen.

"Desert Rose" is a crystalline form with embedded quartz grains.

Alabaster, a purer form of gypsum free from any impurities, has been used for carving for thousands of years, because of its attractive pure white or pinkish color and because of its workability.

Gypsum— a common mineral with many different faces.

Have a nice month

JIM

Fredericksburg Rockhounds newsletter, May 2013

Photos: Top, gypsum mine in the hill country; middle, selenite; bottom, Desert Rose.

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

Easiest way to cut a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel and then do a rough polish with a knife-edge silicone wheel.

FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to http://www.LeeValley.com and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.

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Attribution requested with each publication:

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at facebook.com/BenchTips/ or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

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The RRUFF Project

An ambitious mission to create the world's first accessible scientific database of high quality, standardized information for all minerals, the RRUFF Project is based at the University of Arizona. By providing a standard of reference for all minerals, the project has dramatically advanced mineralogy both on Earth and for planetary exploration. **What is Raman Spectroscopy?** Named after Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman (1888-1970) who discovered the changes in light after it interacts with a compound, Raman Spectroscopy is used to analyze and identify mineral samples. The technique bounces laser light off a sample, then analyzes the wavelength changes in the bounced light to identify atomic vibrations in the sample; and thus precisely characterizes its elementary composition. **From Star Trek to Reality** Researchers can now use Raman Spectrometers calibrated to the data produced by the RRUFF Project to analyze minerals immediately, in places as diverse as deep mines, the bottom of the ocean, and even on the surface of Mars aboard NASA's Curiosity Rover. The hand-held "Tricorder" used to analyze rocks on Star Trek has become a reality - scientists today can analyze a rock using a point-and-shoot laser. *University of Arizona From Midland Gem and Mineral Society Newsletter, February 2013; via Gritty Greetings 4/13*

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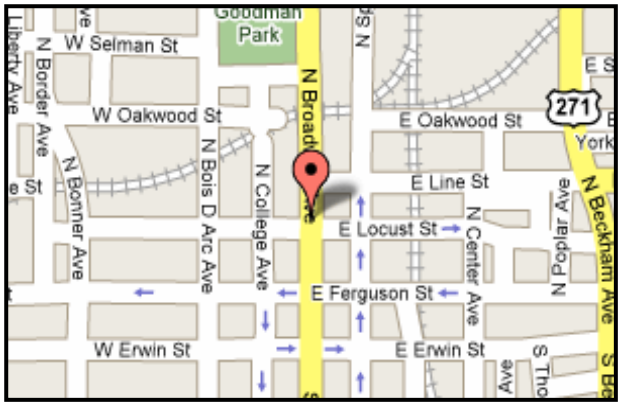

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

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. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call me and I will direct you to the right party.

Thank you... SB

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