



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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Coming Shows, 2010

MAY 29-30

Fort Worth, TX

Fabulous Fossils

Fort Worth G& M Club

Will Rogers Memorial Center

Amon G. Carter Exhibit Bld.

JUNE 4-6

Tulsa, OK

Gem Faire, INC.

Expo Square, Central Park Hall

JUNE 5

Murfreesburo, AR

Crater Gem & Mineral Show

Crater of Diamonds State Park

JUNE 11-13

Houston, TX

International Gem and Jewelry

Reliant Center, at Reliant Park

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FIELD TRIP



June 26th field trip to Jasper, TX, on Lake Toledo Bend. Collecting small to Large pieces of petrified wood. Becky Whisenant will have details for sign-up at the June meeting. For details call Becky at 903-279-9873 or e-mail: whizgnat@netzero.net

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Meeting was well-attended. No one passed out from hunger due to the new "no food" policy, although some folks were looking longingly at the communion crackers and alter wine/juice that was left out. Tom Stringfellow brought examples of the metalwork created by his students at their latest session. Really nice items !!!! He has plans in the works for a PMC class also. I want to make sure that Tom knows we all appreciate him doing this for the members. Don Campbell gave an update on getting our tax status changed and on the progress on the fluorescent mineral display that the society is providing to The Discovery Science Place. I'm looking forward to seeing this once the installation is completed. If you know of any other opportunities to provide education about rocks/minerals to youth please let me know. Examples include displays at the public library, workshops on rocks, gem trees, polymer clay, etc. for the joint YMCA/Palestine Public Library summer youth program and talks at schools. When you make an educational presentation to a group let me know so we can put it in the newsletter. Education is what we're all about and people should get credit for what they do to further that end. Don attempted to present a program on the Tucson Show but the projector wouldn't cooperate. Hopefully he can get this fixed so we can drool over the awesome array of specimens. Those of us that went on the field trip to Midlothian to the Ash Grove Quarry reported on our finds. I'm still cleaning mine but have some nice pyrite nodules, pyritized crinoid fossil and some assorted shells. Hope for a repeat trip there this fall. A field trip to collect petrified wood with the Jasper club is tentatively scheduled for 6/26/10. This will be discussed in more detail at the next society meeting. Until then, good collecting and stay safe. Rip Criss



May Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:00 p.m. May 3, 2010 in the meeting room of the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX. Present were 26 members and 4 visitors.

Motion to accept minutes of the April 5, 2010 meeting was made, seconded and unanimously approved. Treasurer, Jeri Kitchens, gave the monthly financials.

One item noted was the upcoming rock sale on May 15 at the home of Keith & Charlotte Harmon. Tom Stringfellow reported on the recent etching class held at his home and said that there was much more to learn and he will host follow-up classes May 6, 7 & 8. He brought several displays of etching.

Don Campbell said that work is going forward on the fluorescent mineral display in the Discovery Science Place and at the meeting last week he learned the timeline of the project involving carpenters, electricians and the installation of the 2 new black light fixtures the club donated. Don is currently working on the narrative for the display at a level children can understand. Becky Whisenant asked if there are sufficient display specimens and Don said there are plenty to offer a variety. Members were encouraged to come see the exhibit when it is finished.

Don also said the project to change the club status from 501C7 to 501C3 is ongoing. Several members, including Richard Armstrong and Gene Goar offered input to the discussion.

Rip and Becky spoke about the club's recent field trip to the quarry in Midlothian, TX, which was rain-shortened but not before some good finds were made and hauled from the mud. Becky said there is a chance at a return trip in the Fall since this trip was rained out. Becky also said there is a tentative trip planned on June 26 to the Jasper, TX area to look for petrified wood. She said details will be in the next newsletter and plans firmed up at the June meeting.

Door prizes were awarded with Jeri winning the grand prize. She is still trying to find someone who knows what to do with a German clock movement.

Following a short break, Don attempted to get the program, which was Part 2 of the Tucson show, going but his computer failed to co-operate. Don requested impromptu acts to take the floor while he fought with the recalcitrant electronics and Tom stepped up with a joke told to him by Idi Amin, the former African dictator. After the groans had died down, Jim Ferguson spoke on the new natural history museum to be built in downtown Dallas. Lauded to be the best in the US when it is finished it will include a fantastic mineral exhibit, fossil and paleo hall. Ground has been broken on the 6 story building with a projected finish date in 2013.

Gene said that 4 people have signed up for an advanced wire wrap class to be taught by Pat Nixon. She will also come one day early to teach a 4 hour class for students who may then go on to the more advanced session. A short discussion about fossils and trilobites rounded out the evening.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



Safety in the Field
By
Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator

While researching details for this month note I came across a great blog note from a gentleman named Steve Beyer who writes a blog for a website called Singing for Plants.

Much of one of his blog notes is contained below.

With that being said we can break it down to three main points: stabilization, transportation, and treatment. Of note at the bottom of the blog is mention of a "Pressure Wrap" which is a technique I've discussed in previous Safety Articles. Since most of us are more likely to encounter snakes in the field this method should be seriously considered in situations where emergency care is not immediately available.

Be safe and now onto an excerpt from Steve's blog.

As professional handlers of venomous snakes say, "The best equipment for treating a venomous snakebite is a set of car keys." However, the first step in treatment is to AVOID PANIC. Death is rare. Even without evacuation, most cases result in several days of serious misery and then full recovery. Remember that the fatality rate, even for untreated pit viper bites, is extremely low. The treatment steps are:

* Use the Sawyer Extractor. If you are in snake country, the Extractor should always be within easy reach in your pack. The Extractor can remove as much as 30 percent of Crotalid venom proteins if applied within three minutes. Use the Extractor as quickly as possible and then keep it on the bite for about thirty minutes. Because of the great suction it creates, no cutting is necessary. This should always be the first thing you do, even when evacuation is in progress.

[Keep in mind that certain areas of the south and southwest USA have snakes that have bites too wide for a single extractor so plan accordingly - Owen]

- Remove rings, bracelets, or any other constricting jewelry on the affected limb, which may swell to as much as twice its normal size.

* Immobilize the bitten extremity with a splint, just as you would a fracture.

- Have the patient rest and keep activity to a minimum.

- Have the patient drink as much fluid as possible, in frequent small amounts, in order to maintain fluid volume and kidney flow.

* Remember that a snakebite is a contaminated puncture wound, and treat it as such.



- Get to definitive care as quickly as you can. Otherwise, have the patient rest and drink fluids; keep the wound clean; give lots of encouragement and support.

The following are not recommended for pit viper envenomations:

- Do not make incisions or try to suck out the venom. In jungle conditions, cutting into an already compromised limb is asking for an infection. You absolutely do not want pit viper venom in your mouth. Conversely, your mouth is full of all kinds of bacteria. And you can't suck as hard as the Extractor can anyway.
- Do not use a tourniquet. Tourniquets can result in loss of the limb due to decreased blood flow. In addition, you are just keeping the venom localized where it does the most tissue damage.
- * Do not use electric shock. It can be dangerous, and has no proven value in managing pit viper bites. It is the great urban legend of wilderness first aid.
- * Do not use ice. There is no evidence that snake venom enzyme activity diminishes with cold. Freezing already compromised tissue can lead to frostbite, which can damage the limb more than the original bite. Packing in ice has probably resulted in more lost limbs than snakebite itself; this is particularly tragic when limbs have been lost to frostbite because of a nonenvenomated bite.
- * Do not give alcohol. It causes vessels to dilate and may speed venom absorption. The use of an elastic bandage pressure wrap -- recommended for use with bites from Elapidae or coral snakes -- has been recommended for use in some cases of Crotalid envenomation as well. The argument against its use is that the pressure may actually increase the risk of disfiguring local tissue damage, which may then require skin grafts and extensive repair and treatment; and that removal of the pressure may result in sudden massive swelling and discoloration. The argument in favor of its use is that the spread of venom to vital organs can be life threatening -- in fact, some Crotalid bites can cause serious damage to limbs even when the bites were to a finger or foot --- and the use of a pressure bandage can prevent this spread, even at the risk of greater localized damage.

The problem is that there is no way of knowing how serious the envenomation is at the outset, when the decision must be made. There is a tradeoff between averting more serious life-threatening damage and increasing the risk of painful and disfiguring local damage. Such a decision should be considered a serious one, to be decided in full consultation with the patient.

More can be found On Steve's blog site: <http://www.singingtotheplants.com/2009/03/jungle-survival-tips-snakebite-i/>

SCFMS newsletter Jan-Feb, 2010; via The Rock Prattle 3/10



Mokume Gane



MOKUME GANE: A SAMURAI TRADITION FOR TODAY

Emie Stewart

Mokume gane (moh-kah-may gah-nay) literally translated from Japanese means wood grain metal. Mokume gane was developed by Denbei Shoami (1651 – 1728), who lived in Japan. This technique was used by metalsmiths in Japan from the 1600s to the mid 1800s to embellish the swords of the Samurai. It was revived and brought to the United States in the 1970s. In many ways, it is similar to Damascus steel, which is also a multi-metal laminate, but made with steel and nickel rather than precious metals.

Mokume gane is made with non-ferrous metals of contrasting colors. It can be made by either fusing the metals under pressure at high temperatures in a forge, or by soldering them. Once the laminate, or billet, is created, it is carved and/or forged to create topographical patterns similar to wood grain. It can be used like any other sheet: formed, forged, fabricated, soldered, raised, chased, inlaid, etc. Copper is often used as one of the metals because it imparts improved ductility to the other metals in the laminate. It also takes patinas well, which enhances the contrast in the patterns. Many popular combinations include sterling and copper; sterling, copper, and brass; yellow, green, and rose gold with palladium; and copper with traditional Japanese alloys shakado and shibuichi.

Once the metals are selected, they are cut to the same sizes. It is important that they also be of the same gauge and be perfectly flat. The metals are



Mokume gane Cont'

annealed and cleaned before being bonded. It is essential that there be no oils or debris between the metals as this will cause voids or blisters to form in the billet, leading to delamination during the working of the pattern. There are two primary methods of making the billet: soldering and diffusion bonding.

If the layers are to be soldered together, solder foil is made by rolling sheet solder down to approximately 32 gauge. Hard solder is preferable, so that future fabrication is not limited by the solder. Each layer is prepped for soldering, and alternated in the stack with the solder foil. The layers are soldered together quickly using high heat, then quenched in water to check for gaps.

The diffusion bond method uses the high heat of a blacksmiths forge to bond the layers together without solder. The layers are clamped under pressure and placed in the forge. The color of the metal must be carefully watched to determine when to withdraw it from the forge. It is then placed on an anvil to cool.

Electric kilns do not produce good results because of the rapid buildup of oxidation on the metal surfaces. A reducing atmosphere is necessary to ensure good bonding between the layers. James Binnion has been working to resolve this problem. His results are published in the paper entitled Old Process, New Technology: Modern Mokume Gane, which can be found on his website www.mokume-gane.com. Development of the pattern is limited only by the smiths imagination. Traditionally, the billet is punched from behind with a chisel, raising bumps on the front surface. These bumps are filed smooth, removing metal and exposing the pattern. Burs can also be used to cut into the front of the billet, which is then put through a rolling mill to create the patterns.

Blacksmithing hot forging techniques can also be used to develop the pattern. The pattern can be etched to create depth, especially if one of the metals is silver which resists etching. Patinas can be used to enhance the contrast. In summary, mokume gane is an innovative way to expand your metals palette, especially now that precious metals are so expensive. Silver combined with nickel gives a water-marked silk appearance much like damask. Copper and silver are very effective together, as are copper, brass, and silver (although care must be taken to not overheat the brass as it likes to alloy with the silver). Google mokume gane on the internet and enjoy all the different images that are available, and become inspired.

Hounds Tale 05/10

For Sale:

By members of the Waco Gem & Mineral club My wife and I have a Neycraft casting machine along with everything needed to cast rings (investment, gloves, wax, wax rings, boric acid, etc.) minus a kiln. We have a small kiln that we will consider selling if you're interested. \$500.00. We just don't have the time to use the machine. If you're interested or would like some pictures, e-mail or call Ken Alexander (254) 679-9425 ken321@gmail.com. via gritty greetings 05/10

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SPECIFIC GRAVITY

Specific gravity of a solid substance is its weight in air compared with the weight of an equal volume of water. Specific gravity of a mineral is constant and does not change providing its composition does not change. There are six different types of balance used to determine specific gravity: 1) Jolly balance, 2) Kraus improved Jolly balance, 3) Berman density scale, 4) Westphal scale, 5) Chemical balance, 6) Pycnometer, also known as a specific gravity flask.

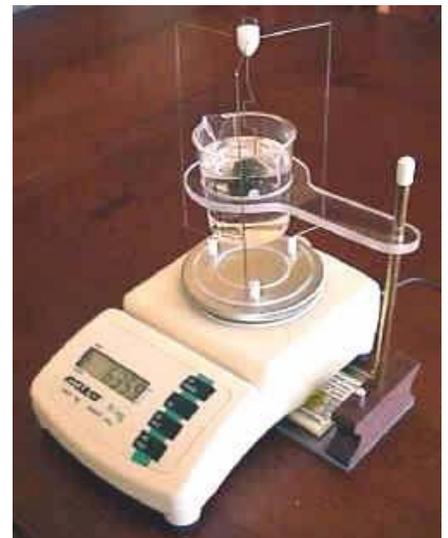
Relative density is harder to explain, so I will use an example. Say you have two doors, one wood and one of iron. Properties are all relative to the mass. This means that the iron door has a greater mass for the same bulk than the wooden door, making the density of the iron door harder to move.

Taste belongs only to those few minerals which dissolve somewhat in water. The terms are easily understood, and there are seven of those terms:.

- 1) Saline - salty,
- 2) Alkaline - soda or potash,
- 3) Bitter - Epsom salts,
- 4) Acid - sour like acids,
- 5) Astringent - alum,
- 6) Pungent - ammonium chloride,
- 7) Cooling - potassium or sodium nitrate.

Odor also belongs to a few minerals, when they are breathed upon, rubbed, scratched, pounded, or heated. There are seven types of descriptive odors:

- 1) Argillaceous - clay-like - Kaolin,
- 2) Bituminous - like bitumen or organic matter - Asphalt,
- 3) Fetid - odor of rotten eggs - Bituminous limestone,
- 4) Astringent - like alum,
- 5) Pungent - ammonium chloride,
- 6) Cooling - like potassium or sodium nitrate,
- 7) Garlic odor given off by some arsenic minerals when heated - Arsenopyrite.



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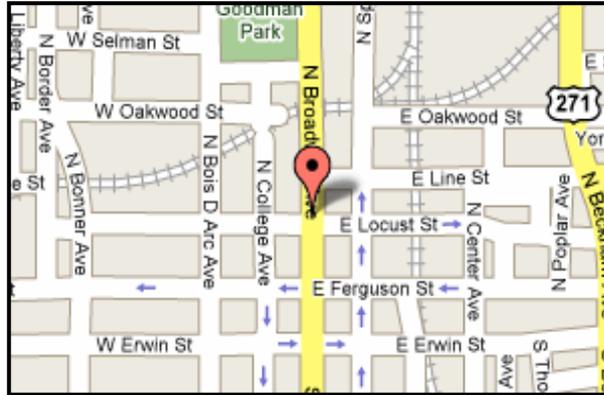
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

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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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