



ROCK-N-ROSE



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VOLUME 35

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2009

Coming Shows, 2009

June 26-28

Grapevine, TX. Bead Show;
AKS Gem Shows
Grapevine Convention Center

AUGUST 08-09

BATON ROUGE, LA
Baton Rouse G & M S
Fraternal Order of Police

AUGUST 15-16

BOSSIER CITY, LA
ARK-LA-TEX G 7 M S
Bossier City Civic Center

AUGUST 22-23

JASPER, TX
Pine Country G & M S
Events Center, 5 miles West of
Jasper on Highway 190

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looks like summer time is upon us ! Lots of rocks to hunt for, trips to take and fun to have! Through it all - please be safety conscious at home and in the field. When collecting: carry plenty of water, take frequent rest breaks, a first aid and survival kit are essential, carry a cell phone and some way to signal for help (mirror, whistle, flares, etc.), let others know where you plan to go collect and watch out for critters. The snakes are out and so are the skunks and scorpions. Wild hogs bear watching out for in these parts and can run faster than any of us can so keep an eye open for a tree to climb or other escape route because wild hogs do not always run away from people. Some of the sounders I've run across run at you !

Be particularly careful around cliffs, drop offs, slopes and around water. I know I'm not as agile as I once was and it takes me longer to heal now when I do get injured. The next few months are the peak of the "drowning season" so watch yourself and anyone with you around water. The outdoors is a wonderful place and has the potential for many great memories. Just think safety first. I'd like to see all of us make it to the year end club auction without any major injuries. Hope to see ya'll at the next meeting on July 6.

Rip Criss

WHAT IS IT? NIGHT

The July 6th club meeting program will be "What is it night?" Bring anything to the club meeting you cannot identify related to our earth science hobby, and we will attempt to get our panel of experts to tell you what it is. It can be rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, etc.



June Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:04 p.m., June 1, 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 April 6, 2009 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter. Tom Stringfellow made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Brenda Sinclair and passed by unanimous approval. A total of 27 club members were present. Brenda introduced her daughter, Brittany and her baby, Chase, as club visitors.

The financial report was given by Club Treasurer, Jeri Kitchens. Keith Harmon made a motion to move some of the club funds, it was seconded and the vote in favor was unanimous. Also winning unanimous approval was a motion by Keith and seconded by Colleen Hayes to make the annual club donation to the American Federation Scholarship Fund.

One item of business brought to the floor was Brenda asking if any other club members were getting their newsletter in the mail. Other members replied in the affirmative so Jeri said that she would send newsletter editor, Susan Burch, an email verifying Brenda's correct address. Any other members not receiving newsletters were asked to email Susan. Rip brought up the possible need to increase the annual club dues to cover the recent increases in postage. Jeri posed the option of emailing the newsletter to members and the general discussion was in favor. The newsletter editor would have to agree and Susan was not there at the time of the discussion, although she did arrive at the meeting later. General agreement was in favor of emailing the newsletter to members wishing to avail themselves of that option, and continue the regular mailed copies to the others. (Editor's note: if any club member knows how to turn a Microsoft Publisher document into an E-malleable version, I would appreciate it. Until that time, we are stuck with hard copy).

Jack Shull gave a brief synopsis of the recent club field trip to gather petrified wood near Jasper, TX which was judged a huge success with 22 club members filling trucks and cars. Becky Whisenant told everyone how she was standing right beside Colleen in the parking lot while they were getting orientation guidelines and Colleen looked down and found a perfect palm wood arrowhead.

Keith reminded club members that the Saturday, June 6, would be the rock and equipment sale at his and Charlotte's house.

Don Campbell announced that the program at the July 6 club meeting will be "What is it?" – an opportunity for everyone to bring rocks, stones, minerals and stuff and have the other club member try to determine just what they have. The idea was met with much enthusiasm. Don also reminded members to be very careful cleaning up the meeting room after meetings and how generous the Discovery Science Place is to allow the club to use it. He also asked for volunteers to do future programs.

Door prizes were awarded with a very special grand prize of a Paciphacops Cambelli from the Haragan Formation, Lower Devonian, Coal County, Oklahoma donated by Don Campbell and won by this writer (how else would I know how to spell all those names?). A short break for refreshments followed.

Don presented the program on Minerals and Mineralogy and how to do research in books and on the internet. He showed the Periodic Table of Elements and described a need to get familiar with it and further mentioned the necessity for geologists to study chemistry. He described the 3 axis of rotation and the 6 crystal classes. During the discussion, samples of differing types of minerals were being passed around the audience to demonstrate the points Don was making. There were many questions and much information exchanged as the members shared knowledge,

Rip adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



GROWTH HABITS OF SINGLE CRYSTALS

Barrel-Shaped: Self descriptive term applied to such crystals as vanadinite and mimetite.

Bladed: This describes the appearance of crystals that are almost equal dimension in all directions and look like children' toy blocks. Some of the feldspars, galena and fluorite can be so described.

Columnar: These crystals are thick and fairly elongated, shaped in miniature like the columns of a building. Examples include beryl, quartz and tourmaline. Sometimes the word prismatic is used to describe the same crystals, because the dominant faces on columnar crystals are usually called prisms.

Capillary: From a Latin word meaning hair, capillary is often used interchangeable with filiform, also from Latin, meaning thread-shaped. The terms describe minerals such as silver, which is sometimes found as thin wires, or millerite, which is found in long, very thin, stiff wires.

Pyramidal: This expression is used when the ends, or even the entire crystal, looks vaguely like three-, four-, or six-sided pyramids. Examples include wulfenite and anatase.

Stubby: Such crystals are also sometimes described as stout or equant. All these terms try to draw an image of crystals that are neither flattened or elongates, but are nearly the same dimensions in all directions. Tourmaline, apatite and beryl can be columnar or prismatic, but they may also be of shorter lengths and stubby.

Tabular: This means that the crystal growth has been flat, with only minor thickness. Wulfenite is often tabular. Torbernte is almost always tabular.

From Michigan Gem News date unknown via Gems of the Foothills, August '95 via VGMS Rockhound Rambling May 2009; via Cutting Remarks 06/09



JEWELERS HINTS

This is a great way to keep your sterling silver jewelry from tarnishing. Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur. So, place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer, or just around your jewelry.

Fire scale is caused when you heat silver or gold and the copper alloy mixes with oxygen in the surrounding air. One way to prevent fire scale is to coat the entire piece you are working on with flux. As the flux dries when you are soldering, it will create a glass that forms a barrier between the copper and the oxygen.

When making a bezel for a smaller stone, it is often very difficult. So try using a super glue to attach your stone to your metal block. This will hold your stone in place and it can be removed when you are ready for it by placing a solvent on the glue.

This method is not recommended for opals (especially doublets and triplets).

Source<http://www.rocks4u.com>; via Cutting Remarks 06/09



June Birthstone : Pearl

Birthstone Color: White

From one of the humblest of life forms, the mollusk, comes the pearl -- a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. Ancient civilizations had many stories to explain the origin of June's birthstone, such as the Greek belief that pearls were the hardened tears of joy that the goddess of love shook from her eyes as she was born from the sea. According to Arab legend, pearls were formed when oysters were lured from the depths of the ocean by the beautiful moon and then swallowed moonlit dewdrops. And the Ancient Chinese thought that these gems originated from the brains of dragons.

The scientific explanation for natural pearls is almost as mystifying as folklore. When an irritant, such as a small parasite or a fish lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam, a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over years, layer upon layer of shimmering nacre coats the intruder, creating a lustrous pearl. Natural pearls are relatively rare, so a process evolved in which a piece of shell or bead was placed inside a mollusk to stimulate the production of nacre. This results in a cultured pearl, which accounts for about 90 per cent of the pearl industry.

Divers find natural pearls in The Persian Gulf as well as in the waters off Japan, the South Pacific Islands off northern Australia, and the coasts of Panama, Venezuela, and California. Most of the cultured pearl industry is in Japanese and Australian coastal waters. These gems come in a variety of colors, from pure white to pink, yellow, gray and black. They also come in different shapes and sizes.

Pearls have been a passion and even an obsession of people throughout the ages. They have been ground up and used in cosmetics and as a medicine to treat heart and stomach conditions. Some cultures swear by pearls as an aphrodisiac. These gems have adorned crowns, clothing, and temples, and were said to be a favorite of Cleopatra. Only those with royal status once wore pearl jewelry, but eventually these gems were seen among all classes of people. They continue to be viewed as a mark of taste and refinement as well as a symbol of purity, and they are often given to celebrate a marriage or the birth of a child. Pearls are nature's perfect gift, suitable for all ages, and elegantly worn with everything from jeans to an evening gown.

Alternate Birthstones

June has two alternate birthstones. The first is Moonstone, a type of feldspar named because of its uncanny resemblance to the iridescent sheen of the moon. Varying in color from clear to blue-white or peach, it was considered by ancient civilizations to be a sacred stone, bestowing the wearer with great spiritual understanding. Some believed that the Moonstone could even make a person invisible! Mined in Sri Lanka, Brazil, India, Madagascar, and the United States, a gift of this stone is symbolic of health and longevity.



Pearls Cont'

The second alternate birthstone for June is the Alexandrite. A yellowish or brownish green in color, this gemstone has the unique characteristic of changing color to a red hue when exposed to a glowing light source, such as candlelight. Because of this quality, it has been characterized by poets as "an emerald by day, a ruby by night." Alexandrite was first discovered in Urals in 1830 but is mined today primarily in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Burma, Madagascar and Tanzania. It is a rare and expensive gemstone, symbolic of joy and good fortune.

Source: 2003-2008 About-Birthstones.com; via Cutting Remarks 06/09



HOW TO BECOME A FOSSIL

Freezing: Leaves the creature much as it was in life. Its arteries may still contain dried blood. The Ice Age mammoths of Siberia and Alaska froze.

Drying or Desiccation: Best known are the camels and sloths in our southwest caves.

Wax and Asphalt: Natural paraffin makes an excellent preservative. Many specimens have been found in Polish mines. The most famous asphalt fossils were found in the California La Brea Tar Pits (la brea means *the tar*).

Simple Burial: English bogs are famous for their buried forests. Sand dollars are mollusks, some of which were preserved this way for up to 75 million years.

Carbonization: Incomplete decay of volatile substances leaves carbon behind, sometimes reducing organisms to paper thin layers of shiny black film that reveal much detail.

Tracks, Trails and Burrows: Dinosaur tracks are the most famous of these. In Nebraska, the Devil's Corkscrew once housed a beaver who dug an eight foot spiral hole.

Castings and Coprolite: Ancient worms swallowed sand to help digest small organisms, then regurgitated these castings. Coprolite is a polite word for petrified dung.

Gastrulites: Many ancient reptiles ground their food with these stones (as do modern fowl). The stones are rounded, smoothed, and even polished at times and are known as gizzard stones.

Petrification: Our common stony fossils got that way by mineralization, the replacement of structure by dissolved minerals, or by secondary replacement, such as when limey fossils are dissolved and replaced by silica.

Molds and Casts: Natural molds in sediment remain after organisms decay. Sandstone beds reveal molds of shells and trees. The finest molds are Northern European amber, which have perfectly preserved insects.

Imprints: Sandstone, shale and tuff reveal external molds of very thin objects such as leaves. Best known are the Illinois Coal Age plant imprints.

From Numerous bulletins, original authors/sources unknown via The Rock Bag 03/1998 via Rockhound Rambling May 2009; via Cutting Remarks 06/09



Although, not so recent, still interesting:

Recent Bonanza

By Brinton Brown

In the Brushy Mountains about 50 miles northwest of Charlotte, North Carolina, and emerald crystal estimated to weigh 1,861.9 carats was found by North American Emerald Mines Inc. (NAEM). Discovered in early December 2003, the crystal is believed to be the largest emerald excavated in North America.

NAEM initially discovered high quality emeralds in a near surface cavity at its mine about a mile from Hiddenite, NC in 1998. During the mid-1980s, an emerald weighing 168.6 carats was removed from the same property prior to NAEM acquisition.

The recently uncovered cavern is at least 12 feet long and 5 feet wide with the depth undetermined. In addition to the large crystal, three matched pieces of high quality emerald were removed estimated to weigh 1,800 carats collectively with the largest section about 1,300 carats. Occurring with the minerals are crystals of quartz, pyrite, muscovite, rutile, calcite, and other minerals.

An indicator of the quality of the emeralds produced from this property is the sale price in 1999. A 71 carat stone's yield was two finished pieces, one 7.85 carats that sold for \$500,000 and an 18.88-carat gem currently for sale for one million dollars.

--Via Lapidarian 3/04; via Mineral Memos 05/06



AFMS News

Having Fun: Kid's Displays and the Lillian Turner Award

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Program Chair

The AFMS/NFMS Show and Convention is quickly approaching! To all clubs that have junior members and pebble pups, please encourage any kids who can make it to Billings to enter a display July 30-August 2. Recent years have seen very few kids' displays at our annual AFMS shows, and even fewer competitive kids' entries. Planning, preparing, and setting up a display and then attending a show and seeing all the other displays and meetings with those who prepared them and judged them is a great way to expand a child's horizons and to meet interesting people who are actively engaged in our hobby.

Info on exhibiting and entry forms for both competitive and noncompetitive displays may be accessed from the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org). Exhibitor applications are due before July 5.

Thanks to the donation of Lillian Turner of Bethesda, Maryland, an award will be given to the outstanding junior who exhibits at the show. It consists of a certificate, a \$100 bond, and a mineral specimen. It's presented at the Show Awards Ceremony. There is also the reward of a job well done in planning and assembling an excellent display.

Whether they enter a display or not, kids should find this year's show especially interesting with dinosaurs, moon rocks, a fossil cave bear, Montana Yogo sapphires, and more. So bring the kids to the show to participate and to learn while, as always, having fun!

~Excerpted from The A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 5/09; via Stone Chipper 05/09



IS IT AMBER OR PLASTIC?

Distinguishing between Amber and plastic is quite simple. Amber, because of its extremely low specific gravity, will float in salt water. Plastic will not!

Make up a saturated solution of salt in a bowl of water until no more salt will dissolve. Put the article of question in the water. If it sinks, it is plastic. If it floats, it is Amber. *Note:* A clasp on a bracelet or necklace will cause the ends to sink but the beads will float.

Source: Gulfport Gems –July 2008 via ROCK CHIPS AUGUST 2008; via Cutting Remarks 01/09

LAPIDARY TIP

When small insignificant pits are present in your nearly finished cab, and you go to the final polish, these insignificant pits will collect the polishing compound and show up like a sore thumb. Of course we don't want our material to have pits in the first place, but unfortunately we are not in a perfect world. Prior to starting the final polish, take a little super glue and coat the area of the small pits. After allowing the super glue to cure, a very light sanding will remove the excess super glue, which sands quite nicely. To complete the stone, go to your final polish. The pits, being filled with the clear super glue, will no longer trap the polishing compound. This tip came to me from Bill Meyers.

~Les Connally, via the Rock Prattle 2/09, Rock-n-Rose 2/09; via Stone Chipper 05/09

The Best Way to Enjoy Rockhounding

The best way to enjoy rockhounding is to put on a wide brim straw hat, dress in thin, cool clothes, hold a rock hammer in one hand, a cool drink in the other and...tell your husband where to dig.

~From The Roadrunner 4/09; via Stone Chipper 05/09



CLUB OFFICERS

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

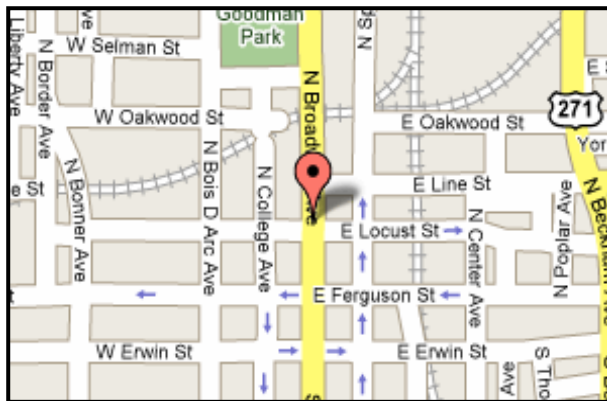
VICE PRESIDENT: Annette Cunningham 903-849-6314
And
Publicity chair 293 VZ CR 4819
Chandler, Texas 75758

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.

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.



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