



ROCK-N-ROSE



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VOLUME 35

TYLER, TEXAS

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JULY 2009

Coming Shows, 2009

AUGUST 8-9
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA Baton
Rouge G&MS Annual show
Fraternal Order of Police Baton Rouge
Lodge Number One

AUGUST 15-16
BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA ARK-
LA-TEX G&MS Show
Bossier Civic Center

AUGUST 21-22
TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA
Tahlequah Rock & Mineral Soc.
Tahlequah Community Bldg.

AUGUST 21-23
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
AKS Gem Shows
Hot Springs Convention Center

AUGUST 22-23
MOUNTAIN HOME, ARK.
Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral &
Fossil Club
Cooper Park

AUGUST 22-23
JASPER, TX
Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soc.
VFW Hall, 7 miles W. of Jasper,
FM 2799 & 1747

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President's Message:

Good meeting - well attended. Learned a lot about identifying rocks and folks were able to get their "mystery rocks" identified.

In these times of increasing costs even ETGMS is not immune. It now costs more to produce the monthly newsletter than the individual yearly dues. We need to consider some options for dealing with this situation. One option is to increase the individual dues to \$15-\$20 per year to cover insurance and the costs of the newsletter. Another option is to go electronic with most of the newsletters. If members opt to receive their newsletter via e-mail, then Susan will need some assistance converting the newsletter file over to a form that she can send via e-mail. Anyone have the expertise for this? If so, please get with Susan. Also, since we're on the subject of computer expertise, an ETGMS website would be helpful for distributing information on the club, field trips, etc. Is there anyone in the club with the expertise and willingness to volunteer to be the ETGMS Webmaster? If so, please come forward.

Due to limited availability of our auctioneers, the club annual auction has been moved to the September meeting. Now is the time to go through your collection or pick up something on a trip for the auction. Last year's auction proceeds allowed us to purchase the digital projection system we use for programs. So dig deep and support the club auction in September. Until next time, good hunting !!!!

Rip Criss

Editor's note: I will be happy to accept help with converting the files, I'm working in Microsoft Publisher. I've tried copy/pasting, converting using the tools provided in publisher and several other things...none have worked. Admittedly I am no expert, so help would be appreciated. Thanks, SB



June Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:06 p.m., July 6, 2009 in the meeting room of the Discovery Science Place.

First order of business was acceptance of the minutes of the June 4, 2009 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter. Brenda Sinclair made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded and passed by unanimous approval. A total of 21 club members were present and 3 visitors.

There was no financial report or new business brought to the floor.

As an item of old business, Rock-n-Rose Newsletter editor, Susan Burch addressed the increase in postage and that club dues might need raising to cover it. Rip touched on the issue and other members voiced thoughts on the subject of having the club newsletter available via the internet. Pete Kaiser said that he belongs to several other organizations and they all distribute their newsletters electronically. Rip asked for any one in the club with the expertise to consider the possibility of starting a website for the club. (Note: This issue was discussed at the last meeting with a large number of the members expressing a desire to have their newsletter emailed to them. Susan arrived late at that meeting and was not a part of the discussion but the details can be found in the minutes of the June meeting.)

There were no field trip reports and none scheduled during the hot months of summer in Texas.

Keith Harmon gave a brief note about the Kid's Day to be held in conjunction with the annual club show in January. The Tyler ISD has agreed to transport the students to the Rose Garden.

Rip directed member's attention to the earring and necklace for the silent auction. The set was donated by a club member and reworked and beautified by Tom Stringfellow. A large number of really unique door prizes were awarded, followed by a break for snacks.

The evening's program was "What is It?" A chance for members to bring in rocks that they wanted to have identified. Keith Harmon, Don Campbell and Charles Creekmur served as resident experts and advisors – with the help of a large microscope and a stack of reference books. Others added ideas and thoughts and questions. Quite a few members had brought in items to be examined and the table stayed crowded.

When everyone had finished bringing out rocks, Rip adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. but many members stayed on talking about rocks and minerals and trips to gather and where to go and where they had just been. The conversations continued as the room was cleared of club items, chairs stacked and put back in order for the ongoing summer events for children at the Discovery Science Place. Two Ball Pythons (in a large aquarium) attended the club meeting and seemed interested in watching the humans. The remaining members left nearly an hour later after agreeing the meeting was a success and very interesting.

Respectfully submitted by
Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



Keokuk Geodes

by Aletha Hoogeterp, April 30, 2009
From Stoney Statements, 7/09



Although geodes of different kinds are found all over the world, the greatest abundance and variety are found in the outcropping of the Mississippian lower Keokuk bed within a 70 mile radius of the intersection of the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers. Southeastern Iowa is one of the best areas for collecting geodes, which were designated as Iowa's State Rock in 1967. The large number of mineral inclusions and the exquisite crystal groups that they form have made Keokuk Geodes the most beautiful and most sought after of all geodes by museums and collectors all over the world. The most common size of Keokuk Geodes is about 3-4 inches across but they can sometimes reach 2 feet across and larger. Most Keokuk Geodes occur within a 35 mile radius of Keokuk. The geodes are found in at least 3 different layers. The uppermost limestone/ shale layer is a rust brown color.

Here you can find nice sized geodes all of which are hollow. The downside of this layer is that most are weathered pretty badly. The next layer down in this stratum is a gray shale layer around 40 cm in width. Here is where you can find the awesome capillary pyrites in quartz, Alpha quartz, and even calcite geodes. Geodes in this layer range from 4 cm up to 18 cm. The larger flattened geodes are, more often than not, filled in with quartz crystals and are not worth filling your bucket with. By lifting your finds you can judge most of the time if there is a cavity or not. Some of the quartz geodes; however, can deceive you because of the high specific gravity of quartz. The thicker the geode skin you find the better condition you will find your inclusion minerals. The lowest layer is semi-hard grey shale in which you find smaller but hollow quartz geodes to 5 cm. Most are only quartz with no inclusions inside but they are still very nice for the avid geode collector. Some of the more common minerals found in the geodes are, quartz, chalcedony, calcite, pyrite, smoky quartz, aragonite/kaolinite and citrine quartz. Other rarer mineral inclusions are drusy quartz, snowballs, barite, selenite, malachite, red quartz and black calcite.

Recommended tools for digging geodes include a short handled shovel, a pick ax or geopick, a long pointed chisel, known as a gad point, a hammer, 5 gallon buckets, and newspapers for wrapping broken geodes with—be sure to wear gloves if you want to avoid blisters! Many areas contain clusters of geodes, so removing individual geodes can be a challenge as they are often found in close proximity to each other. Other items you may wish to bring are drinking water, sun screen and insect repellent.

One of the best methods for cracking geodes is to use a manual soil pipe cutter. However, for the hard-core geode enthusiast a hydraulic pipe cutter is a "must have". The most common way



Geodes Continued:

to open a geode is the hammer and chisel method. This is done by tapping a line around the center of the geode, using a flat chisel and hammer, and continuing to go around deepening the line until the geode cracks open. This method takes lots of practice. Give yourself plenty of time and don't rush it. If you do you won't get two equal halves but a pile of sparkly crystals that used to be a geode. The other common method is to use a lapidary saw. This method is not highly recommended unless you plan to polish the geode halves. With this method you also run the risk of cutting through an interesting mineral formation. The collecting fees at the various sites range between \$16 and \$25 for a 5 gallon bucket full.

There is even one site that has a per pound fee for geodes which are too large to fit in a bucket.

Geode hunting can be exciting experiences as you crack open each geode exposing the treasures inside rewarding you with the first glimpse of a crystal world previously unseen by anyone else.

References:

Keokuk Area Convention and Tourism Bureau, www.keokukiowatourism.org

"Jacob's Geode Mine" by Everett Harrington, May 7, 2005, <http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr/HarringtonMay05.html>

"Keokuk Area Geode Collecting" by Heidi Retherford, May 2008, <http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr08-2/RetherfordMay08.html>

Via Stone Chipper 07/09



Hints & Tips For the Silversmiths

The success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing wheel threads - not the amount of rouge used. A cheaper buff will not give the same results as a quality one.

Plain old-fashioned whiting moistened with ammonia water makes an excellent agent for polishing tarnished silver. Wipe the paste on; allow it to dry; then rub with a piece of lemon. Wash and dry thoroughly. The silver will stay brighter longer than with ordinary cleansing.

To rub smooth the high points of a gold article, use sodium bicarbonate with a minimum of water.

To antique silver jewelry, paint the pieces to be darkened with raw egg yolk. Rinse off the egg and rub highlights with Linde A. Glue your pattern on the silver with rubber cement. It removes easily.

Bon Ami applied with a toothbrush will give a satin finish.

One of the most useful and versatile tools on your workbench should be the orangewood stick. This tool is sold for the purpose if working on cuticles and is available in all cosmetic departments. The orangewood stick is soft enough not to mar gold or silver, yet is hard enough to use as a pushing tool in setting prongs. It will not scratch gems and will reach into impossible places.

~From *The Lodestar* - 11/92, via *The Calgary Lapidary Journal* 5/09, via *Stone Chipper* 07/09



Field Trip Season Know Your Rocks

Leaverite: Also known as Dropite, Junkite and Crudite. This type of rock should be discarded immediately. It constitutes 90% of most rocks. This includes Sourgrape Agate and Mutilated Quartz.

Sack Rock: This is material that is stuffed into a sack but fall from the top as the bearer struggles back to the car. If taken home, it will be tossed into a corner and forgotten.

Wonder Rock: You always wonder why you brought it home, and where you found it.

Braggin' Rock: Also called Pocket or Eating Rock. This material is licked, rubbed, spit upon and fondled until it assume a near polish and is frequently passed around for admiration.

@#%&+ Rock: A large heavy, possibly angular rock that falls on your foot as soon as you have removed your hiking boots.

~From -Gem Time 06/98, via MWF Newsletter 12/02, The Calgary Lapidary Journal 5/09 , via Stone Chipper 07/09



JOKES

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says, "Sorry we don't serve food in here."

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says, "A beer please, and one for the road."

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other, "Does this taste funny to you?"

~From the Crystal Gazer, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal, via Stone Chipper 07/09



SCFMS News

The South Central Federation Show this year will be hosted by the Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society in Temple, Texas from October 10-11, 2009. The host hotel is the Quality Inn at 254-770-1100. For more information on this show, you can go the SCFMS website at www.scfms.net.

~S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter, 5-6/09 , via Stone Chipper 07/09



What is Proctor Lake?

by

Don Schurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

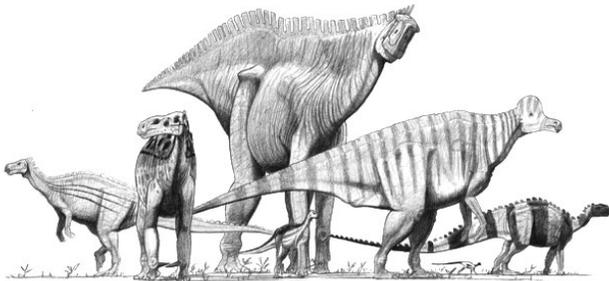
Proctor Lake is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake near Comanche, TX. The primary purposes of the lake are for flood control and to provide water to Comanche, Erath, and Hamilton counties. The lake is not associated with the Comanche Peak nuclear power-generating station; that facility is located about 45 miles east of Proctor Lake.

Why would a rockhound be interested in Proctor Lake? One reason is that one of the most important dinosaur finds in Texas was located near Proctor Lake. A college student named Rusty Branch found the site in 1985.

The site yielded a few adult skeletons a large number of juvenile skeletons. Because of the large number of juvenile skeletons, it is speculated that the adult dinosaurs were tending all the juveniles and were caught in drought conditions. The dinosaurs were named

the Proctor ornithopods or the Proctor Lake ornithopods (name varies from reference to reference).

Another reason a rock hound may be interested in Proctor Lake is that pebble size pieces of fossilized wood and agate can be found along some of the beaches. Proctor Lake was one of the first rock hound sites that I visited after rejoining the hobby some 25 years ago. The lake is relatively close, located about 120 miles southwest of Dallas. If you are interested in visiting the lake, pick up US 377 on the southwest corner of Ft. Worth and follow it through Granbury, Stephenville, and Dublin for about 85 miles. Then go north on CR 2861 to the Forest Service park entrance. The last time I visited the site there was a small day use fee. The petrified wood and agate that I found was along the rocky beaches on the south side of the lake and west of the spillway.



Ref:

Lone Star Dinosaurs, Proctor Lake, <http://www.lonestardinosaurs.org/photoalbum/proctor.html>

Proctor Lake home page,

http://www.swfwc.usace.army.mil/proctor/Ornithopods_jconway.jpg,

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ornithopods_jconway.jpg

via Chips & Chatter, Mar 09, via Rock Prattle 07/09



Rhodochrosite

By Les Connally, Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society

reprinted from The Rock Prattle, May 2009, via Gritty Greetings 07/09

Unlike its cousin Rhodonite, which is a Manganese Silicate, Rhodochrosite is a Manganese Carbonate, and is much softer – Mohs hardness of 3.4–4.5 as compared to Rhodonite's hardness of 5.5-6.5. This makes Rhodochrosite less desirable as a gemstone. In the case of material that has very large crystal bundles it even becomes quite difficult to polish. The material is, otherwise, quite beautiful. If the material is fine grained it will take a fairly good polish. Rhodochrosite forms in many ways, as a crystal mass, as single crystals, and as Stalactites or Stalagmites from hydrothermal deposits. It is not a very common mineral and the single crystals are even more rare.

Chemical Formula: MnCO_3

Crystal class: Hexagonal ditrigonal scalenohedral Class.

Crystal Structure: Rhombohedral

Properties:

Hardness: 3.5 – 4.5

Cleavage: Perfect Rhombohedral

Sp. Gr.: 3.3 – 3.6

Fracture: Uneven

Color: Rosy Pink, gray, dark brown, rarely colorless.

Luster: Vitreous to pearly

Rhodochrosite is found in association with calcium, iron, zinc, and magnesium. It is usually found in mines of iron, lead, gold, copper, and silver.

It occurs in hydrothermal veins in many places some of which are: Romania; Hucha, Spain; Franklin, N.J.; Butte, Montana; Austin, Nevada;

and Alicante, Colorado. Some recent finds in the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado have produced the much-desired single crystals, some of more than 1 inch across. 1.

I have cut both Rhodonite and Rhodochrosite and have had some trouble in polishing both. I like the Rhodonite from Australia, which seems to polish better than the Colorado material. I prefer to cut the finer grained Rhodochrosite that is usually found in the Stalagmites or Stalactites. My advice to those cutting the Rhodochrosite is to seek the fine grained material and to use them in jewelry that is away from sites that will produce wear or scratches, such as a pendant or ear rings.



CLUB OFFICERS

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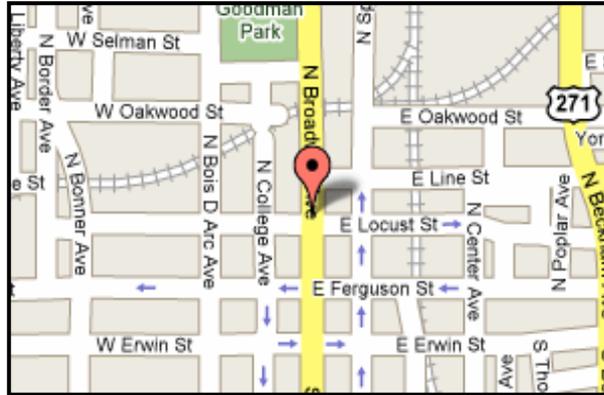
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER,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

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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