



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 36

TYLER, TEXAS

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JULY 2010

Coming Shows, 2010

August

7-8 Austin Bead Society's Show
Palmer Events Center 900 Barton
Springs Road
Austin, TX

14-15 Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral
Society annual show; Fraternal Order
of Police,
Baton Rouge, LA

21-22 Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral
Society annual show; Bossier Con-
vention Center, Bossier City, LA

28-29 Pine Country Gem and Mineral
Society 16th annual show; The Event
Center,
Jasper, TX

28-29 Ozark Earth Science Club an-
nual show; Van Matre Senior Center,
Cooper Park,
Mountain Home, AR

SEPTEMBER 4-6

Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Soci-
ety Grant County Business and Con-
ference Center 3031 Highway 180
East, next to ACE Hardware. FREE
ADMISSION ROCK HUNT FIELD
TRIPS ALL THREE DAYS!!!
Silver City, NM

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Had a good meeting with an excellent program. Good to see everyone and hear about their collecting adventures so far this summer. Sounds like some more opportunities to learn lapidary techniques are in the works. I appreciate the members that have taken the initiative to offer these classes and urge everyone to support them by taking part. I've expanded my lapidary skills as a result of a recent class and have been enjoying wire-wrapping various items. Once the hay season is over I plan on taking other classes (have to put that hay up to feed the cows this winter). If you have a special lapidary talent and are willing to teach it to others, please let the rest of us know so we can arrange to have a class. The main focus of our group is education - passing on the techniques of various lapidary arts. Toward that goal we are in the process of getting our tax status changed to make it more advantageous for individuals to donate to the society and looking for a site for a permanent workshop. A permanent workshop would make it easier to schedule workshops, give us a place to set up lapidary equipment for use by members and set up a lending library of resource materials for the members to use to educate themselves and others. Along those same lines, if you make a presentation to a school or other group please let me know so I can add it to our list of community educational involvement. I know that several members provide these services but only mention it in passing at meetings. I'd like to make a more formal accounting of these activities by having them noted in the newsletter. Lets give these folks some well-deserved recognition. That's it for this month. As always, be prepared and be safe in your lapidary activities. Hope to see you at the August meeting.

Rip Criss



July 2010 Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:05 p.m. July 12, 2010 in a meeting room at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX. Present were 22 members and 3 visitors. President Criss welcomed the visitors and 2 new members.

Motion to accept minutes of the June, 2010 meeting was made, seconded and the motion carried.

Jerri Kitchens, club treasurer, gave the monthly financial report and a report on the recent club field trip to the Jasper, TX area to collect petrified wood. Despite the heat, 22 members made the trip and were successful in gathering large amounts of specimens. Another trip to the same site was proposed, to be held in cooler weather, but before the current lease expires.

No old business was brought before the members.

Don Campbell proposed a fossil hunting field trip to OK in mid to late September as the heat on the mountain during the summer can be unbearable and dangerous. He plans to have more details at the August club meeting and proposed that it should be a 2-day trip to get an early start on Saturday morning at the quarry which is near Coalgate, OK.

Gene Goar gave a brief report on the wire wrapping class, taught by Pat Nixon. Pat is affiliated with the Miller Rock Shop in Hot Springs, AR and Gene suggested the club might consider a field trip to that area next year.

Tom Stringfellow brought several cases of jewelry and spoke on the "stone of the month", Intarsia. He will teach a class in PMC (Precious Metal Clay) in November. He will also have a class in soldering on July 22.

Door prizes were awarded, followed by a short break for refreshments, which are allowed again since the club has moved to a smaller meeting room.

Don presented the program about how to find collecting sites using the tools available to us: internet, books (both new and old ones), libraries, geologic maps. He noted that maps once had to be ordered in a lengthy process but now many can be downloaded from the internet. He had slides of maps and aerial photos and suggested "TerraServer" and Google Earth are among many sites to search. Don stressed that even within our own club, members have wide-ranging interests in a variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, precious metals. Research can now be specifically directed to find the best places to dig, collect or explore.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

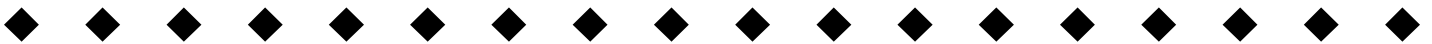
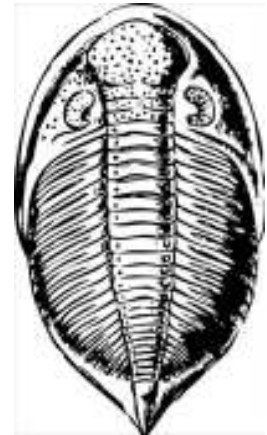
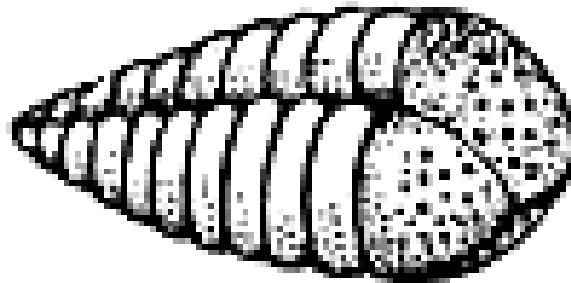
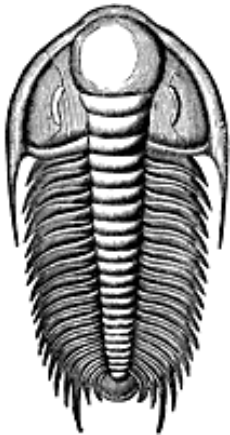
Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary

Oklahoma Trilobite Field Trip.

Saturday September 12th, Clarita Oklahoma at the Black Cat Mt. Trilobite Quarry. We will be hunting and collecting fossils (trilobites, brachiopods, coral, and other good stuff) at a private quarry in south central Oklahoma. It's a 3-1/2 to 4 hour drive to the collecting site from Tyler, thus you will want to travel up Friday evening and stay in one of the two motels in Coalgate OK. We will meet at 7am at the Post Office in Clarita and then travel up to the quarry. The road into the quarry is passable only in pickup trucks and SUV's. Those with cars will have to ride in with someone. There are no stores or facilities in Clarita nor at the quarry, thus every thing that you will need in the way of food, drink, gas, etc. will have to be brought in. There are no restrooms in the quarry. You will have to find a private spot behind a bush or tree. There will be a \$20.00 per person fee to collect. Everyone is guaranteed to find at least one or more trilobites and loads of the other stuff. More information will be available at the August & September Club Meetings.

Or you can call Don Campbell for more info @903-520-4085.



August Club Meeting Program:

Collecting trilobites in Oklahoma.



Forming a Youth Group in Your Club: A Six-Step Program

If your local society doesn't already have a youth group in place, here are six general "rules" I've learned as a result of talking with folks who have taken the initiative to begin one:

Enlist a kids' "champion."

One common denominator I've observed over the years: those clubs that have successfully maintained a strong, vibrant, and sustained kids program have had a central club member who has stepped forward to champion it. It all begins and ends with a leader who commits to the program and follows through with consistency and enthusiasm.

Capitalize on your existing pool of talent.

It's hard to find someone who knows everything about our hobby, but in most clubs you find an amazingly diverse storehouse of individual knowledge. One person loves fossils, another is an expert cab crafter, another has an amazing mineral collection, yet another knows all there is to know about meteorites or knapping. Identify adults within the ranks of your club's members and their individual strengths. Then gather commitments! Just one member a month committing to help with a presentation or activity will carry you through your first year. Although you need a central champion to lead the program, to succeed it also needs to be a *club* commitment, not the project of any one individual.

Plan before you start.

How will your activities be organized? You should have procedures spelled out, and they should be more-or-less consistent from meeting-to-meeting so expectations are clear for everyone involved and to create a familiar sense of rhythm for the kids. You might choose to devote 10-20 minutes of your usual club meeting to a Pebble Pup Presentation; or you might choose a monthly activity at a member's home just for kids. Whatever you choose, keep the structure and expectations more-or-less consistent.

In addition to planning the structure of a typical meeting, ideally, you should plan your entire first year's calendar in advance, gathering commitments from club members to take on specific months. Then, publicize the schedule in your club bulletin and elsewhere so everyone knows what's coming and appropriate preparations can be made well in advance rather than moving from meeting to meeting in a last-minute rush to find a new topic, activity, or speaker. ***Center meetings around an activity.***

Most adult meetings are centered around a lecture or presentation, and during these, you'll observe kids a) sleeping or b) running the hallways. The best way to channel kids' curiosity and energy is through hands-on activities. There should be a *brief* presentation to set the stage, but the bulk of your meeting should be activity-oriented. For instance, in introducing fossils, you very briefly should give kids the utmost basics on what a fossil is and on the fossilization process and then move quickly to sturdy specimens kids can see and touch and pass around, perhaps with a couple large-format picture books and dinosaur models as illustrations. Then move on to the main event: an activity making clay and plaster casts so kids can walk away with their very own plaster fossil at the end of the night. Get kids learning by doing, and they'll want to come back for more.

Reward kids with something tangible after each meeting.

Kids like to collect, so one goal should be to help them build a basic collection. In addition to whatever they may end up with from the activity session of each meeting (like the fossil cast described above), you might also open or close each meeting with a raffle where every kid is a winner. Spread out a selection of rocks, minerals, and fossils, and give each child a single raffle ticket and let them pick from the selection when their numbers are called. Or give each child the same sort of specimen. (Encourage adult members, when going on field trips, to stockpile and bring home a supply of whatever they're seeking—whether quartz crystals, fossil shark teeth, agates, or barite roses—for the kids.) Yet another idea is to hand out gold stars or stickers, such as the rolls of small "Rockhound" stickers available from Frank Mullaney of the California Federation (phone, 408-266-1791; e-mail, rockyfiv@aol.com) at the conclusion of any activity or club meet-



ing, and once kids have earned 3 or 4 stars or stickers, they can trade them in for a mineral or fossil. Whatever route you choose to go, label specimens with info on what they are and where they came from to begin teaching kids the basics of documenting their collections to add both personal and scientific value. Finally, you can also use the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program to work with kids toward earning badges in the various areas of our hobby or Diamond Dan Earth Digger Clubs activity patches to sew onto club vests or sashes.

Involve parents.

A youth program is not a babysitting service. Kids have a lot of energy (my own energy was constantly getting me into trouble when I was in elementary school, as my second-grade “D” in conduct will attest...), and parents should be expected to help channel that energy in positive, productive directions and to lend their support. The larger the youth group, the more important it is that a number of adults are on hand to provide individual attention and to prevent the inevitable tendency toward chaos. This also brings up a point I wish we didn’t have to go into, but it’s important to raise, namely, the importance of having youth leaders who are well known by all in the club and of having multiple adults on hand when working with kids. We need to ensure a safe, secure, and wholesome environment free from child predators. The safety of our youth is of primary importance. Finally, getting parents involved in running activities will help in cultivating future youth leaders for your club, thus avoiding the problem of burn-out if a single individual is asked to run the youth program year after year.

Most of all: Make it Fun!

~Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

Article reprinted from the AFMS June 2010 Newsletter; via Stone Chipper 07/10



Future Rockhounds Forum

We know that many clubs have very active juniors programs. And, we know that some clubs have awesome programs to engage local schools in their clubs and activities. But, a review of the FRA Honor Roll (www.amfed.org/Fra/honor_roll.htm), suggests that the South Central Federation juniors have not really embraced the Future Rockhounds of America Merit Badge Program.

We can imagine several possible reasons for this:

No use for the badges.

The merit badge program is based on a program used in scouting. However, in scouting, there is a Merit Badge Sash where scouts can proudly display their successes. Perhaps clubs could get some volunteers to make-up some club vests specific to juniors, upon which they could place their badges. There would need to be some way to accommodate growing juniors. Then, encourage the juniors to wear them at club functions, juniors meetings, etc.

No benefit perceived by leaders.

Perhaps the effort involved in registering the club, or requesting the merit badges is perceived as ‘too much trouble’. Or they simply don’t think the juniors would enjoy it. Please visit the program site at:

www.amfed.org/Fra/fra_badge.htm

The amount of work involved is very small, there are many good suggestions, and many of the Juniors activities you are already doing fit readily into the merit badge program.

No recognition for achievement.

We need to make something of a ‘big deal’ over the awarding of Merit Badges. Maybe badges could be presented at the regular club meetings, in front of the adult members? Or perhaps funding could be located to allow an ‘Ice Cream party’, or a ‘Pizza party’ for juniors and their parents (a couple times each year), in which to promote the success of juniors and award badges?

Cont' from pg. 5

No long-term view.

The AFMS program recommends a 'graduation' where a junior goes from 'Pebble Pup' to 'Rockhound', after completion of 6 badges. But, most clubs have age restrictions on membership. So a junior could receive a rockhound badge, but still be in the Juniors program. How about sweetening the deal? When a Junior reaches the age when they need to join as adults, how about granting a free one-year membership for those with at least 6 merit badges? This could help enroll parents (saving money), help retain people during those adolescent years, and provide a long-term answer to 'why are we doing this'.

Maybe you have other views or suggestions. Please, let us know. Alternately, take your ideas to your club leadership.

The juniors programs are where we plant the seed for the future of our hobby.

~Carol and David Abbott , SCFMS Juniors Program Co-Chair

Future Rockhounds of America Merit Badge Program

Article reprinted from the SCFMS May-June 2010 Newsletter; via Stone Chipper 07/10



CLUB-HOUSE QUANDRY

The question posed for the club... Why don't we have our own clubhouse? Without a place for members to come and learn how to do some of the things that make up our hobby, i.e.: faceting, cabbing for example, a club will have a hard time holding members. It is essential to bring in new members, especially junior members to keep the hobby alive. Now, I did mention to the member posing this question that particularly this year, we've been having members step up and hold classes, which are very much appreciated. The member mentioned that the club had been around for so many years, and it was a shame we did not have our own place to hold regular classes, have shop access and help more young ones into the hobby. That it's occasionally talked about, but no real progress toward that end. They also suggested posing a question to the membership...look at what you may own, might there be a piece of property or a building in need of a little fixing up that you might donate or lease to the club for a nominal fee? Please, consider these things. Thank you.

Relayed by the Editor from an anonymous member.





The Gemstone of July - Ruby



Star Ruby

From the time gemstones were discovered, they were believed to have mystical powers and attributes that could be passed to the wearer. The red of ruby was fiery and passionate; cool blue sapphire was calm and composed. About 2,000 years ago, writers began pairing each of the stones and their attributes with the months of the year and the signs of the Zodiac, and with time, the mythology of birthstones evolved. People were expected to share the attributes of the stone related to their sign of the Zodiac or month of birth.

There are actually many birthstone lists in use today, the most prevalent one having been adopted in the twentieth century to sort out some of the confusion. However, some months still have more than one birthstone, and some people prefer to use the lists attached to the signs of the Zodiac.

The gemstone ruby is the red variety of the mineral Corundum, the second hardest natural mineral known to mankind. Ruby is the July birthstone, and the Capricorn Zodiac stone.

All colors of corundum other than red or white are called **Sapphire**. The red color in ruby is caused by trace amounts of the element chromium. The best shade of red for ruby is often given the name "pigeon blood red", but ruby can be any shade of red up to almost pink.

Oriented **rutile** crystal inclusions cause a six-rayed-star light effect (called *asterism*) to form the popular Star Ruby.

Rubies come from all over the world but good gemstones are found at Thailand, India, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, North Carolina in the U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Kampuchea, and perhaps most notably, Burma.

Like most gemstones from the antiquities, Ruby is one of the **Bible stones**. In Exodus, the Breastplate of Aaron is described as containing a "sardius", the ancient name for ruby. In Greek culture, Rubies were thought to contain a glowing spark struck from the planet Mars. Ancient lore held that the ruby was capable of curing illness and reconciling lover's quarrels. Hindus referred to the ruby as "The Lord of the Gems," and believed its deep red color came from an inextinguishable fire which was capable of boiling water. It is said that a person should never make faces at a ruby in a museum, and never ignore it, for it was said to grow dull if slighted or not worn or seen.

Many men of science believed in the medicinal powers of the ruby and praised its therapeutic value. When, in 1663, English physicist Sir Robert Boyle supported this view, rubies were offered for sale by druggists as cures for various ill. The famous "ruby elixir" was created by a secret method for wealthy patients. It was placed on the tongue, which subsequently became cold and heavy, as did the fingers and toes. This was followed by violent shivering. When these effects had disappeared, the cure was considered complete. Ruby jewelry worn often will stimulate and amplify psychic and mental energies. It is inevitably associated with heart and love.

The red in ruby jewelry reminds the passion and power of July birthstone. Due to the red in ruby gemstones is liberated the energy of love. Ruby gemstones radiate warmth and a strong sense of vitality, characteristic for July birthstone.



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Robert (Rip) Criss 903-922-2856
P.O. Box 340
Oakwood, TX 75855

VICE PRESIDENT Becky Whisenant 903-795-3652
3786 CR. 2107
Rusk, Texas 75785

TREASURER: Jeri Kitchens 903-245-8822
2533 Chelsea Dr.
Tyler, TX 75701

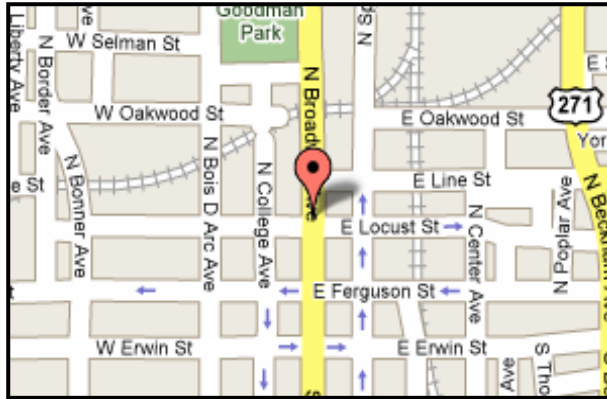
SECRETARY: Penny Hawkins 903-586-4463
134 CR 3151
Jacksonville, Texas 75766

MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: Don Campbell 903-566-6061
3319 Omega Dr.
Tyler, TX, 75701

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

SHOW CHAIRMAN: Keith Harmon 903-581-4068
8316 Oxford St.
Tyler, TX 75703

CLUB ADDRESS: East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
P. O. BOX 132532
Tyler, TX 75713-2532



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



EDITOR: Susan Burch
20427 US. Hwy 69 S.
Alto, TX 75925

E-Mail: rockroseeditor@hotmail.com
Phone: 936-615-5397