



# ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 38

TYLER, TEXAS

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JULY 2012

## Coming Shows, 2012

**Aug. 11 - 12**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA**  
**Baton Rouge G&MS**  
**Fraternal Order of Police**

**Aug. 18 - 19**  
**BOSSIER CITY, LA**  
**Ark-La-Tex G&MS**  
**Bossier City Civic Ctr.**

**Aug. 25 - 26**  
**JASPER, TX**  
**SCMFS & Pine Country**  
**G&MS**  
**Events Ctr.**

**Sep. 01 - 02**  
**ARLINGTON, TX**  
**Arlington G&MS**  
**Arlington Conv. Ctr.**

**Oct. 06 - 07**  
**TEMPLE, TX**  
**Tri-City G&MS**  
**Mayborn Civic Ctr.**

**Oct. 19 - 21**  
**VICTORIA, TX**  
**Victoria G&MS**  
**Community Ctr.**  
**2905 E. North St.**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great turn out at the July 2nd. club meeting which was a holiday week. Our show and tell program was most interesting as different club members shared information and passed around the different items they had made or collected. This is always one of my favorite programs we do each year. We are still working on updating our membership list, and Bill Faulkner has volunteered to take all of our recently filled out membership forms and consolidate the information with our existing list. He sent me a preliminary list recently and it looks great. If you haven't given us your updated information, please fill out the attached form, and send it in, or e-mail me the information at donald1427@hotmail.com.

If you are a Facebook fan please look up our Facebook page which was put together a couple of years ago by Tom Stringfellow and Robert Ortega. It's a good place to post club related information. Check it out by searching for: East Texas Gem & Mineral Society. If you need more info on how to use the page, please contact Tom Stringfellow.

Our new club year starts in October, thus membership dues will start becoming due in September. We will be reminding members over the next couple of months to renew their dues. Also we will be electing new officers at the September 10th club meeting. Each year we elect a club President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. All other offices are appointed by the president. Anyone wishing to serve as a club officer starting in October, please let us know so we can compile a list of candidates. We will vote at the September 10th club meeting.

Lastly, on Saturday August 8th from 1-5pm, we will be hosting the "Mad Scientist Saturday" at The Discovery Science Place. We have been asked to provide 5 -6 interactive activity stations in the children's museum and club members man those stations to help children learn more about the earth sciences. The activities will be basic and simple in nature. The activities have been planned and are in preparation as we speak. We need 8-12 volunteers present to help make this event a success. If you are interested in helping, please call me @ 903-520-4085.

Have a great remaining summer. Don Campbell



## AUGUST 6TH CLUB PROGRAM

The August 6th club meeting program will be a geology related video program with a question and answer session following.



## JULY 2ND MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Don Campbell.

Tonight's meeting will be a show and tell format from the club members.

Motion made to accept minutes as written in the July newsletter and the motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Treasures report given and it was decided to move some of the checking funds into the money market account.

Don reported that it is time to perform an annual audit of the treasury. Member, Richard Armstrong, CPA, was appointed to chair the audit committee. A request was made to two more member volunteers.

Members Susan Chapman and Terry Roberts will assist Mr. Armstrong.

No field trips are currently scheduled for the Tyler club. Don and a few members did go on a "scouting trip" to check out the possibility of a field trip to the Lake Waco area and the Mammoth dig site.

August 23rd and August 26th are scheduled for field trips by the Jasper Gem and Mineral Club for petrified wood in conjunction with their annual club show. Anyone interested must sign up with the Jasper club in advance as there a limited number for each trip.

Other business: The Discovery Science Place is holding an activities event on August 4th from 1-5 pm and we need 8 volunteers to man the various exhibits. Exhibits include digging for Dinosaur eggs, sifting for minerals, exhibit tables, a Texas rock display and the fluorescents booth display. Please contact Don if you wish to volunteer.

It was brought to the clubs' attention that we already have a Facebook page and that several members are routinely contributing to the content. The Club name...East Texas Gem and Mineral Society is the Facebook page name. Everyone is invited to log on and check out the content.

The program this evening was Show and Tell. Various members told about collecting trips and or minerals that they treasured.

Colleen Hayes, Acting Secretary



Thought I would share a picture of two turquoise pendants made by club member Terry Roberts. He used 20 ga. square sterling silver wire to wrap. Absolutely gorgeous!

If any of our members have made a piece of jewelry, cabbed a cab, faceted a stone, etc...please, send me a picture and info so we can share it with the club. SB





## Obsessed with Obsidian By Sheryl Sims

“...jet, obsidian, ember of bloodstone, glisten of mineral green. And what hangs out there asleep...”  
Jennifer L. Armentrout

The term obsidian came from an error made by a printer. The Latin word Obsianus, was meant to allude to Obsius, who, according to Pliny, the Elder (Book xxxvi), discovered the rock in Ethiopia (formerly Abyssinia). Also known as Iceland agate, obsidians are a favorite among my growing mineral collection. The dark, volcanic glass, which is formed by rapidly cooling, solidifying lava may be found in a variety of colors. Most commonly, black or dark gray is found. Much less easy to find is the blueish gray. Obsidian may also be found in a reddish brown color as well as in iridescent shades of silver, or gold tones. Rare finds of obsidian have streaks of pink, yellow, green, purple and brown. Some obsidians are spotted and others possess more of a free-flowing banded pattern. Obsidian can be translucent, but may also be opaque. They can be vitreous or subvitreous and possess conchoidal fracturing. Obsidians are often used for jewelry, however, I simply enjoy looking at it and feeling its smooth, glassy surface. It's also been used as mirrors in telescopes. In ancient times, it was used as for weapons and tools because of the sharp edges that occur when broken. It was also used for chalices, vases, and statues.

While obsidian is still obsidian despite going by many other names, below are marketplace names by which obsidians may be found:

Agata Negra (black agate) Mount Saint Helens emerald.  
Apache Montana jet. black obsidian  
Banded obsidian Nevada diamond.  
Black lava glass Obsidian "cat's-eye"  
Colombianite (americanite) Obsidianite  
Chatoyant obsidian Onyx obsidian  
Desert glass Peanut obsidian  
Electric blue obsidian Pearlylite  
Fire obsidian or Flame obsidian Pitchstone  
Flowering or Snowflake obsidian Plum obsidian  
Glass agate Pumpkin obsidian  
Golden sheen obsidian Royal agate.  
Iceland agate (or Iceland agate lava) Rhyolite glass  
Iris obsidian or rainbow obsidian Royal blue obsidian  
Itatli - obsidian (Aztec) Sheen obsidian  
Lassenite Snowflake obsidian  
Libyan glass "Star"  
Mahogany obsidian or Mountain Velvet obsidian  
Marskanite Volcanic glass  
Mexican 'Mayan'/Rainbow obsidian. Xaga

Obsidian may be found in parts of Italy; Russia, Mexico, and the US (Arizona, California, Utah, Oregon, and Wyoming).

<http://people.cst.cmich.edu/dietr1rv/obsidian.htm>. Ibid.

Montgomery, 1981; Pough, 1997; VanLandingham, 1962, pt.2; Weiner, 1983.

from Mineral Minutes 6/12; via Stoney Statements 6/12; via Gritty Greetings 7/12



## 2012 SCFMS Annual Meeting Flyer

ALL Roads Lead to Jasper, Texas  
JEWEL OF THE FOREST

Site of SCFMS Annual Meeting and PCGMS 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Show, August 25-26, 2012

Show Hours - Saturday 9 to 5 Sunday 10 to 5

The Event Center, 6258 Highway 190, 5 miles West of Jasper

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Annual Meeting Hosted by PCGMS

Editor's & Web Master's Breakfast - Saturday 8:30 A.M.

SCFMS Annual Business Meeting  
Saturday 2:00 P.M.

Awards Dinner  
Saturday 6:00 P.M.

ALL SCFMS meetings to be held at  
First National Bank Community  
Room

Rollin' Rock Club Meeting  
Sunday 9:00 A.M.

Field Trip Collecting Petrified Wood  
Thursday, August 23rd and Sunday,  
August 26th

The Field Trip will be open to mem-  
bers of any Rock Club affiliated with  
the SCFMS and will require pre-  
registration. The number of partici-  
pants will be limited.

Contact:

Paul James, (409) 429-7444 or  
Fred Brown, (936) 661-1024, Field  
Trip Chairman for information.

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soci-  
ety, P.O. Box 2513, Jasper Texas  
[www.pinecountrygms.org](http://www.pinecountrygms.org)





**Trivia Vugs  
by RJ Harris, CPRMC**

A meteor has only destroyed one satellite, which was the European Space Agency's Olympus in 1993.

American dentists use some 13 tons of gold each year for crowns, bridges, inlays and dentures.

A dog was killed by a meteor in Nakhla, Egypt, in 1911. The unlucky canine is the only creature known to have been killed by a meteor.

On November 17, 1959, synthetic diamonds were created for the very first time.

The first blast furnace in the USA was built in 1622 in Falling Creek, Virginia. It was destroyed by hostile natives the following year.

Sources: Useless Information, Launch Radio

From The RockCollector 12/11 Rock Buster 12/11-1/12. Via 1/12 Stoney Statements



If you have not done so already, please, fill out the form below and return to Don Campbell or to the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society's address listed on the back page of this newsletter.

**EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM**



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult: \_\_\_ Jr. \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter via e-mail? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Special Interest in the hobby: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Joined: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone or Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## UTAH'S RED HORN CORAL

The Unitah Mountains coral lived during the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian geologic ages. In ancient seas, they grew on reefs and rocks on the ocean floor as separate, distinct solitary corals. Some floated; some were attached to anything solid. The myriad corals in the colony began to be buried in limy silts and oozes which came from the eroding land masses nearby. Some sources estimate that the tiny particles accumulated at the rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in 400 years. As the corals experienced a natural death, they were slowly entombed along with crinoids, pelecypods, and brachiopods. Excess silica on the ocean floor and different cracks and openings deposited as gelatinous silica which would later harden into chert. With the accumulations of thousands of feet of sediment and the drying up and resurgence of various oceans, one above the other upon the sedimentary column, the intense pressure and weight hardened the oozes into solid limestone rock. The layers were separated by clay and shale beds representing times when the surrounding seas became shallower.



The Unitah coral colony was and is not an ordinary colony. In relatively recent times, the coral beds were fractured by crustal movements and then buried by a lava flow of early Tertiary age.

The pyroclastic lava flow covered over 180 miles with jumbled, steaming lava formations. Rainwater and upward circulating ground waters carried silica, calcite, manganese, iron and other constituents into the fractured fossil grey coral layer. Trapped beneath a thin layer of green clay, which overlays the coral layer 10 or 12 feet above it, the silica bearing waters gradually soaked the fossil material. The silica was colored by manganese and was precipitated upon the walls of solution cavities, joint cracks, and, especially, into the interior of a great many of the fossil corals -probably by ion exchange between silica and calcium in a process known as selective replacement.



A few crinoids, pelecypods and brachiopods and their fossil parts have been preserved in the carnelian agate, although they are not as bright a red as the horn coral. They are decidedly rare in occurrence and are very expensive but found complete except for the full crinoid calyx and stem.

The final process of formation was the exposure by erosion of the sunlit ridge once covered by lava and sedimentary cover to reveal the rockhound "gold" treasure of the Unitahs. From Gemrock via The Burro Express, via THE ROCK RATTLER, 03/98; via Stoney Statements 01/12



## NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

### INTRO TO FACETING

Ron Gibbs has a nice presentation on faceting that is particularly well illustrated. It's from a seminar he gave at the Michigan Geology and Gemological Society. <http://theimage.com/faceting/>

### FREEFORM GEM CARVING

Have you ever wondered how to carve and polish a freeform gemstone? Hans Meevis, a jeweler from Saint Martin, has a nicely done tutorial on his work with a 10 ct Aqua. It's definitely worth a read. Enjoy! <http://www.ganoksin.com/borisat/nenam/freeform-gem-carving.htm>

## BENCH TIPS FOR THE MONTH

### RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. Solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. Question is what do you use to elevate your cab ?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that there's a better solution, especially for use in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose. In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check it's height.

### TIP FOR A TRANSPARENT CAB

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I worry that the silver will tarnish under the stone and will destroy the brilliance of it's color & pattern. So I take one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish.

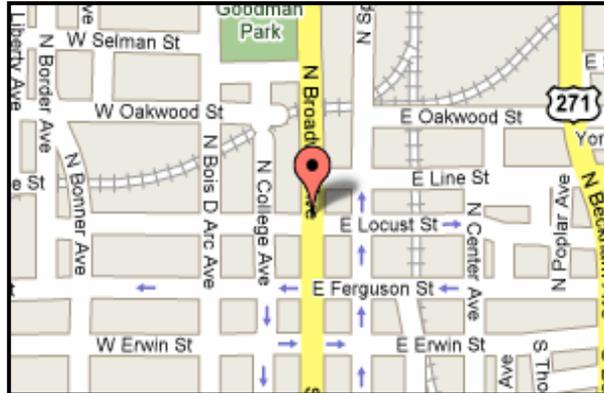
This Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips) or [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/)

## CLUB OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Don Campbell 3319 Omega Dr. Tyler, TX 75701	903-520-4085
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Becky Whisenant 3786 CR. 2107 Rusk, TX 75785	903-795-3652
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<b>MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:</b>	Don Campbell 3319 Omega Dr. Tyler, TX 75701	903-520-4085
<b>FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:</b>	Your name could be HERE!!! Volunteer Today!	
<b>SHOW CHAIRMAN:</b>	Keith Harmon 8316 Oxford St. Tyler, TX 75703	903-581-4068
<b>CLUB ADDRESS FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES:</b>	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



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