



# ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2015

## Coming Shows, 2015

**SEPTEMBER 25-27**

HUMBLE, TX

Houston Gem and Mineral Society Hum-  
ble Civic Center

**OCTOBER 9-11**

MOUNT IDA, AR

Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce-  
Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz  
Montgomery County Fairgrounds  
Held in conjunction with the Annual  
Amateur World Championship Quartz  
Crystal Digging Contest

**OCTOBER 10-11**

TEMPLE, TX

Tri-Cities Gem & Mineral Society  
Mayborn Civic Center

Fort Worth, TX

Cowtown GM&GlassSoc CERA

**OCTOBER 23-25**

AFMS-SCFMS

Austin, TX

Austin G&MS

Palmer Events Ctr.

**OCTOBER 25-26**

Glen Rose, TX

Paleo. Soc. Of Austin  
Somervell Expo Ctr. Hwy 67

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another month has past, and temperatures have jumped above the 100 degree mark. I'm happy to say that I managed to miss most of that. With a couple of weeks spent up north rock hunting and enjoying the scenery. I have to say it sure was nice starting out in the morning with temperatures in the 50's. And it is always nice when we find a lot of nice rocks.

The September meeting will be on the 14th due to the Labor Day holiday. We will elect new officers at the September meeting, so please try to attend. As has been the case in the past, we have not had many members volunteer to be nominated for an office. I was hoping that this wouldn't have been the case this year. We are still in need of members to fill some of the offices, please get off of the bench and in to the game. The club needs the participation of all its members to function properly. And please don't say I'll run if nobody else is. We will be without a treasurer if somebody doesn't step up to the plate.

There are a few things coming up in October. Keith Harmon is having his annual Rock Sale on October 3rd. The Austin Gem & Mineral Society Show will be October 23 - 25, and will be hosting the AFMS and SCFMS Conventions this year. At the October meeting, we will have our annual silent auction, in lieu of our program. All auction items are donated by members.

Membership dues will be due in October.

Kinney Polve

**Due to the holiday the September  
meeting will be on the 14th.**

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Membership Form
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3. Officers and Directions





**JULY MEETING MINUTES**

**As intended for the July 2015 newsletter**

President, Kinney Polve, called the meeting to order on July 6, 2015, at 6:50 p.m.

Visitor, Gary Langford introduced himself. Lynn Metcalf was a new member. Aaron and Lynda George and grandson Ethan Estredge joined our group.

Kinney announced the silent auction item and reminded all to purchase door prize tickets for the evening.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made by Fred Mahaffey and seconded by Euva Scott.

Colleen Hayes gave treasurer's report.

**Lapidary Arts Group:** The July meeting will be Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of Terry Roberts. Bring your questions, items you have finished and items you need help with.

**Field Trip:** Fred Mahaffey has planned a trip to Lake Nacogdoches on July 11<sup>th</sup> to hunt fossils. This is a family friendly place so gather up your crew. Another trip is planned for July 25<sup>th</sup> to The North Sulphur River to hunt fossils, petrified wood and more. This hunt will be more physically challenging. Put your name on the sign up list if you are interested so that Fred can give you more last minutes information. He still wants to know if you are interested in a trip to Arkansas to hunt quartz crystals. He needs to know what you are interested in doing so he can plan more hunts.

**Newsletter:** Susan Burch wants your help with the newsletter. Send her articles and pictures about your work or your discoveries. Kinney also wants your news for the web page.

**Announcements:** Becky Whisenant suggested you could do a petrified wood hunt on your own to Sam Rayburn Lake.

We were reminded that you can find rock collections in unusual places like Goodwill.

**Old Business:** Officer elections are coming up. Everyone needs to think seriously about how you can help your club. Let Kinney know if you are willing to be nominated for any office. He is especially looking for a treasurer.

All action has been taken to purchase certificates of deposit as granted by vote of the club. A safety deposit box has been rented to keep important financial records so one person does not keep them.

**New Business:** Remember our October meeting is the annual auction. This is when the members provide interesting items for auction and come eager to buy. This is one our important money making projects of the year.

The next meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Terry Roberts will present the program on his trip to Southern California and Quartz-site.

Colleen Hayes made a motion to end the business meeting. Penney Hawkins seconded the motion. Kinney drew tickets for door prizes. Refreshments and visiting followed.

Jack Shull closed the evening with information and pictures for the program on fluorescent minerals.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Davis



**AUGUST MEETING MINUTES**

Vice President, Terry Roberts, called the meeting to order on August 3, 2015, at 6:50 p.m.

New members and guest introduced themselves. Marilyn Kirby has her father's equipment from his rock shop and is ready to learn about the hobby. Karen Nance is a member that has not been able to be active. Another visitor was Wes Carter. Members Lynn & Cheryl Sturrock brought their grandson, Clayton Sturrock, who is visiting for the summer.

Terry reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheet for the evening.

July and August minutes will be published in the August newsletter. They will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

There was no treasurer's report at this time.

Continued on page 3



**Lapidary Arts Group:** The July meeting was successful. There will not be a meeting in August due to the leaders being out of town. This meeting will return in September.

**Field Trip:** Fred Mahaffey brought examples of finds from the North Sulphur River trip. No trip is planned for August due to hot weather. Let Fred know if you are interested in a trip to Arkansas in October to hunt quartz crystals. A trip to the Midlothian Cement Quarry to hunt for fossils will occur in November.

**Newsletter:** Susan Burch announced that in January she would celebrate her 10th year as the Rock N Rose newsletter editor. She has been appointed to be the editor of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies' Newsletter for the next year. She told us that many clubs share newsletters and some articles from our newsletter are being published by others.

**Announcements:** There will not be door prizes or a silent auction this evening due to the treasurer not being able to attend. The South Central Federation and the American Federation both will meet in Austin this October. The Board will act to send a delegate and pay dues and insurance to the South Central Federation.

**Old Business:** The September meeting will be election of officers. It is not too late to offer your services for one of the positions. We will elect a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and two at large board members. Keith Harmon, Trish Hamilton and Brad Martin volunteered to have their name submitted for the at large board members.

**New Business:** No new business was brought to our attention.

Our next meeting will be September 14<sup>th</sup> due to Labor Day being on our regular meeting date.

Keith Harmon made a motion to close the business meeting. Susan Burch seconded the motion. Refreshments and visiting followed.

Terry Roberts presented a talk and pictures from his trip last January to southern California and Quartzsite. He explored at the Ocean View Mine and the Himalaya Mine.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Davis



**BACK YARD ROCK AND EQUIPMENT SALE**

**CONTACT: KEITH HARMON**

903-316-2967/ keithharmon19@yahoo.com

**WHEN: SATURDAY, October 3, 2015**

**START AT 9AM**

**WHERE: 9116 US Hwy 84 West, Rusk, TX 75785**

**WHO: KEITH AND Toni HARMON**

**WHAT: OVER 50 TONS OF ROCK OF VARIOUS TYPES – AT LEAST 10 TONS NEW SINCE LAST SALE INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: agates, jaspers, obsidians,**

**Jade, palm wood, Arizona wood, tumbling rough, large rock,**

**Cutting material.**

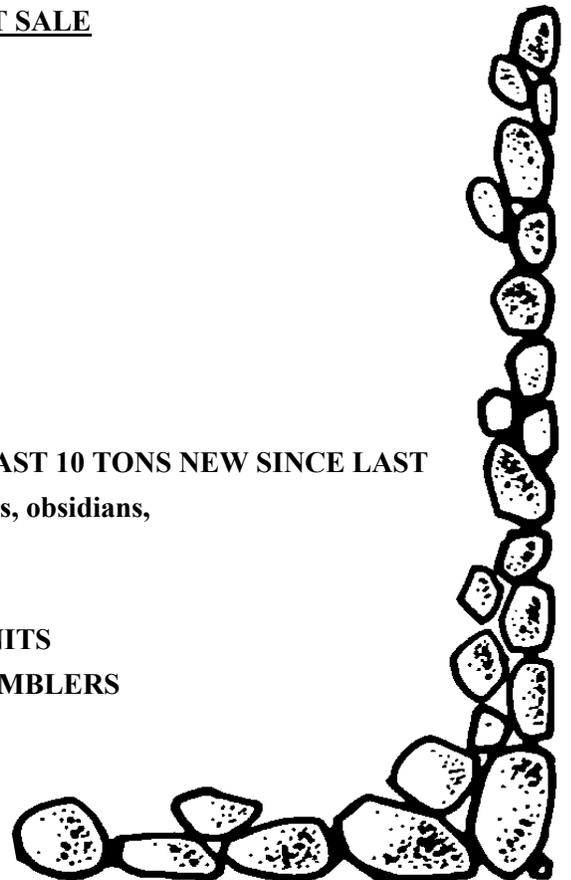
**USED EQUIPMENT: SAWS, GRINDERS, POLISHING UNITS**

**VIBRATING LAPS, FLAT LAPS, SPHERE MACHINE, TUMBLERS**

**COST: ROCK: FROM \$0.50 TO \$4.00 PER POUND AVERAGE**

**EQUIPMENT: INEXPENSIVE FOR WHAT IT IS.**

**PLEASE - NO EARLY SALES.**





### IN SEARCH OF MOZARKITE

By Kinney Polve

Anytime we decide to go searching for any type of material, the search has to have a beginning. This search began a couple of years ago when I ended up with a piece of material from one of our monthly club meeting. Was it a door prize, or purchased at our yearly club auction, I can't remember. But this was the beginning. All I know is that I was fascinated by the colors and patterns, I had to know what it was, and where I could find more.

To give you a little background to aid in the search, Mozarkite is a form of chert, with a hardness of 7 – 7.5 Mohs. It is found in a wide variety of colors, and has a lot of character with its ever changing patterns. It gets its name from the area that it is found, Mo (Missouri) – zark (Ozark Mountains) – ite (meaning rock). It is the state rock of Missouri.

After a quick internet search for Mozarkite, I came up with The Mozarkite Society of Lincoln. This seemed to be the best place to start, with a phone call to Terry Blum, Vice – President of the Mozarkite Society. After a brief phone conversation we met Terry at a small convenience store in the middle of Lincoln, Mo. From there we headed east a couple of miles to a blueberry farm. The best places to hunt Mozarkite is on private land, and it's even better when they have been clearing new ground to plant. So this was the ideal place for our search to end. It did cost us 50 cents a pound for everything we decided to keep, but when you can find excellent quality material, and someone else does the digging, it is well worth the money. Well the search is over, with 115 pounds of Mozarkite in the truck, it is time to move on to the next search, Montana Agate.



*Top right: Mozarkite slab; middle: Mozarkite rough; bottom: Mozarkite Hunt picture was taken by Vicky Polve. People in it are Terry Blum, Breyanna Angulo, Kanon Angulo, and me, Kinney*



***Keep cool in the August heat!***



**PLUME AGATE  
BY TERRY ROBERTS**

I thought you would enjoy looking at a red plume agate cab that I found in a pile waiting for me to work on. I found this one on the Walker Ranch in west Texas. It had a druzy quartz crystal cavity in the upper half that helped set off the red plumes. I have one picture of the cab with reflected light and one with transmitted light. This cab was shown at the August meeting.



**BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH**

**SMOOTHING EARWIRES**



Any time you make your own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Freedom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy, and none are as fast as I'd like.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip. I find it's worth practicing the maneuver a couple times on some scrap wire before trying it on completed earrings.

**BALL BURS**



I use ball burs quite a bit for carving and for cleaning up bits of solder that need to be removed. The ball shape seems to be more controllable than other cutting burs. They're less apt to grab and walk over your piece.

As to sizes I've found that 8 mm is a very useful size for carving while a half mm or smaller at high speed works great for signing your name on the back of your work.

**Please include the following attribution with each publication:**

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon and if you publish as a pdf, I'd appreciate 'Amazon' to be a live link to [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)

**2015 SINGLE CABOCHON CONTEST**  
**Hosted by the Austin Gem & Mineral Society**

The Austin Gem & Minerals Society is proud to announce the hosting of a single cabochon competition. The competition will commence during the AFMS Show held in Austin, Texas; October 23-25, 2015. The required material must come from one of the South Central Federation states: Arkansas, Louisiana or Texas. Entry deadline is by NOON, October 23, 2015. Entry forms will be available at the show. Contact person is Laird Fowler: lairdf@earthlink.net (512-971-8224). An entry form can be emailed to you prior to the show.

Overall guidelines for fabrication and judging will be defined in the updated American Federation of Mineralogical Federation's Rules: Section 9.0; DIVISION C – LAPIDARY; Rule 9.1

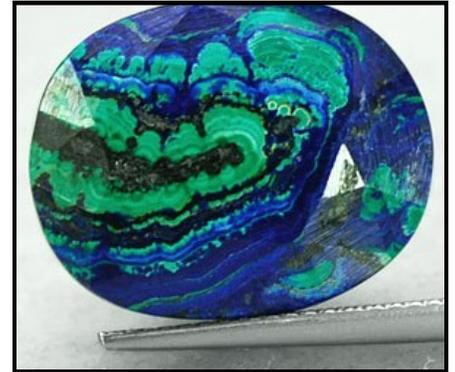
Cabochons: A cabochon shall be lapidary material of a size that could be worn for jewelry, cut free hand without having been tumbled. Cabochons fall in two categories:

- (1) Traditional: Traditional cabochons must have domed tops and must have at least one plane of symmetry. A plane of symmetry exists when a straight line passed through the middle of a cabochon gives two equal halves in size and shape. Some examples of traditional cabochons are: heart, cross, star, square, rectangle, diamond, teardrop, pear, circle, oval, and kite.
- (2) Modern and Creative: Modern and Creative cabochons may have either domed or flat tops and have any shape that exhibits both the skill and creativity of the lapidary. They are not restricted to having a plane of symmetry. (Category sometimes known as Free-Form)

The reverse side of any cabochon modern, traditional, or creative, may have a bevel or chamfer. A bevel or chamfer is not mandatory.

OUT-OF-CLASS materials for THE 2015 Cab Contest are:

- (a) Mineral specimens
  - (b) Materials embedded in plastics
  - (c) Tumbled material
  - (d) Material not from one of the South Central Federation States: AR, LA and/or TX
- While Rule 9.2 considers the following OUT-OF-CLASS, the 2015 Cab Contest will allow the following: Any lapidary entry that has more than fifty percent of the specimens composed of petrified wood.



We look forward to your entry in this competition.



**Yearly dues are due in October! Please, fill out this form and remit to Colleen Hayes**

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



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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

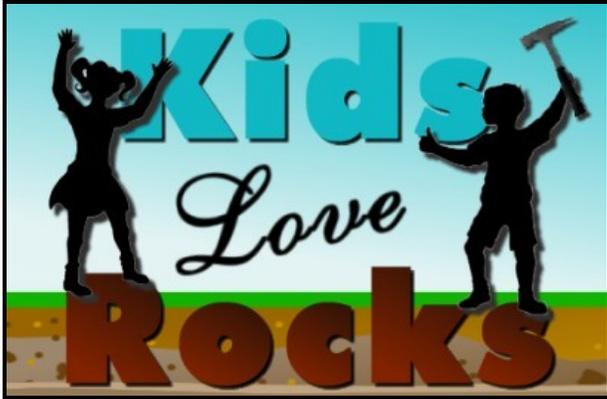
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



### GUIDE TO COLLECTING ROCKS

Once you have determined you want to start a rock collection, the first thing you must do is decide what you want to collect. To begin, you may just start with rocks you find around your home and local neighborhood. Pick rocks that are attractive to you and unique in some way.

Good organization skills are key when starting any type of collection. Rock collecting, stamp collecting, sea shell collecting, and coin collecting all have one thing in common: Organization. In order to display a great collection, you must be organized. The process begins

with your first specimen. Here are the steps to Organizing your rock collection.

### STEPS TO ORGANIZING A ROCK COLLECTION

- 1. Identification** - Once you have a rock specimen, you need to identify it. There are hundreds of different rock types that can be identified, but all rocks can be grouped into one of three basic types of rocks, Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic. Begin by determining the [type of rock](#).
- 2. Labeling** - Now that you have identified your rock type, label it. Write down on an index card the rock's common name if you know it, the type of rock it is, where it was found and the date it was collected. By labeling your rocks, you can now organize them into groups which can then be stored together or displayed.
- 3. Cataloging** - Cataloging is an extension of the labeling process. A catalog is a written archive of your rock collection. Each rock specimen has its own label which identifies it. Your catalog keeps a record of all your rocks. As your rock collection grows, your catalog will also include information on where your rocks are stored. An example of cataloging can be found at your local library. You can search for books by using the library's card catalog or computer catalog. Because everything is very well organized, you can find what you are looking for quickly.
- 4. Display** - The last step to organizing your collection is to decide how you will display and store your rocks. By displaying your rocks both you and others can appreciate their natural beauty. When displaying your rocks be sure to keep the rock specimen and label together. If you keep your rocks in small cardboard, plastic, or wooden containers they will be easier to display as well as store. Using a protective container is an especially good idea for fragile samples. Acid free tissue papers can be used to protect especially fragile specimens.

To learn more, check out this information about [building a mineral collection](#) and find out how you can print out some free mineral labels to keep your collection organized.

Now that we have talked about how organize your rock collection, lets look at [what to collect](#).

This article is by gracious permission of the Cold River Mining Company. <http://www.kidsloverocks.com/>



### 2015 JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS DISPLAY CONTEST

At the combined AFMS and SCFMS show October 23-25, 2015, in Austin, there will be a category especially for our junior rockhounds. This category only comes along at a combined show. Parents and members please encourage our pebble pups to enter a display in the 2015 competition in October!



Check us out on the web: [WWW.ETGMS.COM](http://WWW.ETGMS.COM)

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society: Is to promote the study of geology, fossils and the lapidary arts. The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

MONTHLY MEETING:

First Monday of the month unless a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

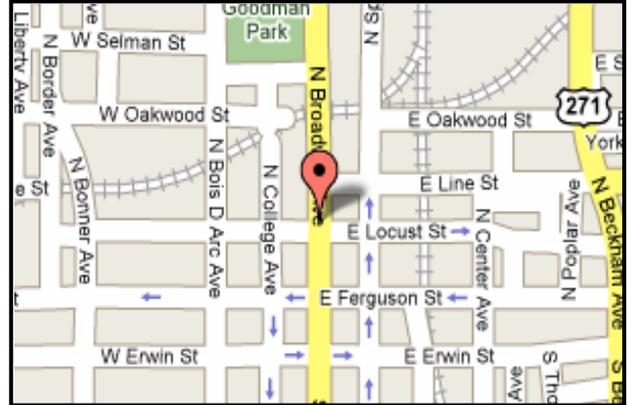
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place  
308 N. Broadway  
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

- Adults: \$10.00
- Juniors: \$2.50 with adult membership
- Family: \$20

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Feel free to use contents for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.



**NEWSLETTER CONTENT:** Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below 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. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call, as that is the best way to reach me. Thank you... Susan Burch

**CLUB OFFICERS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Kinney Polve  
903-646-3189  
8665 CR 373 D  
Henderson, TX 75654

**SECRETARY:** Carolyn Davis  
903-567-4162  
1042 VZCR 4201  
Canton, TX 75103

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Terry Roberts  
903-881-5108  
12243 Cross Fence Trail  
Tyler, TX 75706

**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:** Fred Mahaffey  
903-978-0268  
1637 CR 1306  
Rusk, TX 75785

**TREASURER:** Colleen Hayes  
903-343-2714  
19849 Highland  
Whitehouse, TX 75791

**SHOW CHAIRMAN:** Keith Harmon  
903-795-3860  
9116 US HWY 84 W  
Rusk, TX 75785

**CLUB ADDRESS:**

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

**SEND DUES TO:**

Colleen Hayes  
19849 Highland  
Whitehouse, TX 75791



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

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