



ROCK -N- ROSE



PAGE 1

VOLUME 33

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2007

COMING SHOWS, 2008

JANUARY 19-20

Fredericksburg, TX
Fredericksburg Rockhounds

JANUARY 26-27

Tyler, TX
East Texas Gem & Min. Soc.

FEBRUARY 16-17

Georgetown, TX
Williamson County Gem &
Min. Soc.

FEBRUARY 23-24

Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake Gem & Min. Soc.

FEBRUARY 23-24

Jackson, MS
Eastern Federation Show

FIELD TRIP INFO

CHECK OUT PAGE 4!!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. January Meeting Program
3. December Meeting Minutes
4. Upcoming Field Trips
5. Amber
6. Amber Continued
7. Shop Tips/Jasper & Agates
8. Officers and Directions

Presidents Message

In spite of the smaller than expected turnout at our December meeting, we had a good time !! Plenty of good food, good fellowship and lots of fun with the White Elephant Christmas gift exchange. Lots of neat "rocky" items !!!!

There are still openings on the sign in sheets for the January show and the sheets will be at the January meeting. There is a job of some kind for everyone and it's fun. You can help out our club and meet some "interesting" people at the same time.

While the holiday season should be a time of good cheer it can, for many, be a time of sadness, anxiety, depression and conflict. Gregg Krech with the ToDo Institute suggests seven things we can do to reduce holiday stress:

1. De-commercialize your holidays by taking the emphasis off of buying lots of gifts and shift it to spending time with friends and family and engaging in activities that bring you closer together. That's the best gift of all.

2. Keep your sugar intake low by minimizing your consumption of high sugar foods and alcohol. They both give an initial "rush" but are followed by a drop into depression afterwards (and a craving for more sugar). Avoid this "roller coaster" by staying away from these foods and sticking with fresh fruits, vegetables and complex carbohydrates to stabilize your blood sugar.

3. Get outside and exercise. Nothing strenuous, just walking will do. This releases endorphins in the brain ("feel good" chemicals) and gets you outside in the natural sunlight, which also helps to fight depression. In addition, you might find a neat rock !!!

4. Stop trying to control family members. Even though they might be able to do so much better if they would just listen to what you have to tell them, they most likely have ignored your advice in the past, will continue to do so and will probably resent your advice. Don't use the holidays as an opportunity to get them to "see the light", instead use them to do your best at being a loving, accepting sibling, parent, cousin, etc. If some one wants to help "fix" your life,



just listen to them, thank them for their concern and ask if they want to go for a walk with you to feed the birds.

5. Do something for others. Helping someone less fortunate than yourself helps you to put your problems into the correct perspective. Some suggestions are helping to serve meals at a homeless shelter/food kitchen, visiting the patients in a nursing home, helping with a Toys for Tots or similar program, etc. Get outside yourself !!!

6. Reflect on your Good Fortune (what you have instead of what you do not have). Make a list of 100 things that you have to be grateful for so you can shift your attention to the practical ways the world is supporting you instead of taking things for granted.

7. Focus on the Present. You can't change the past, only learn from it. You can't do much about the future other than to prepare yourself now for it. So stay in the present where you're more likely to be able to become absorbed in the moment, which is our "real" life. Enjoy what you have now !!

Finally, don't expect to be happy and joyful throughout the holiday season. Feelings ebb and flow all of the time. When you feel depressed, fatigued or anxious, remember that these are temporary emotions and will pass. Accept the feelings as being there, focus on the activities at hand and continue on. Take them with you on your walk, feeding the birds, baking cookies or whatever you're doing. They will pass.

Have the best holiday season you can and I hope to see all of you at the January meeting !!!!

Robert (Rip) Criss



JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM

The January 7th club meeting program will be given by Pete Keiser on "How to Artistically Mount and Display Rock, Mineral, and Fossils Specimens". Pete will demonstrate how best to show off and enhance a specimen's natural beauty.

Also, our club show work day will be on Saturday, January 12th at 9:00am at Don Campbell's office and shop located in northeast Tyler. Please bring all of your rock, mineral, and fossil donations for use on the silent auction table and wheel of fortune game. We will sort, organize, and assemble our stuff for these areas of the show. Please bring your glue guns, glue, drimmel tools, drills, and interesting pieces of wood that we can use to mount specimens on. Specimens need to be dry, and somewhat clean of dust and dirt.

Don's office and shop is located at 5734 American Legion Road, Tyler, Texas 75708. To get there from the intersection of Hwy 31(Front St.) and the east Loop 323. Go north on Loop 323. You will go through two signal lights as you go north (East Erwin, & East Commerce). Continue north on the Loop and at the next signal light turn right on American Legion Road. The "REO" club is at the turn so look for that. Travel east on American Legion road about a quarter of a mile and up the hill, and Don's office is on the right. Look for a blue metal building with a big green sign on the front that says "Layne". It's across the street from the American Legion Hall. If you need additional information or get lost call Don @ 903-520-4085. Don will have maps with directions to his office at the Jan. 7th club meeting.



DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 3, 2007, at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler. Everyone welcomed our guest Minnie Ross, Charlotte's mom. Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting as published in the November issue of the Rock-N-Rose. Emily 2nd and motion passed. Jeri gave a treasurer's report and asked everyone to check the membership list for correct information and that dues are due as soon as possible.

Keith urged everyone to sign up for at least 2 time slots at the show in January. The club discussed how to handle attendees who wanted to return the 2nd day on the same ticket and decided to issue a free 2nd day pass if someone inquired about it. Don announced that the workday for the show will be at his office on Saturday, January 12th, to begin at 8:00 a.m.. He will have maps and a handout at the January meeting. We will put together silent auction items and wheel of fortune prizes.

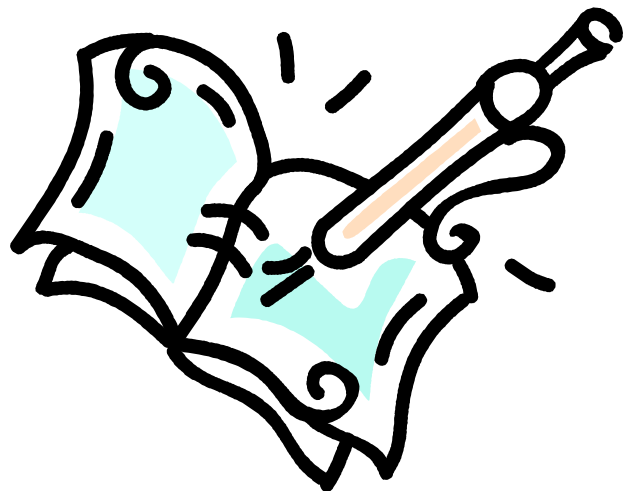
Laura announced a field trip to the Coleman crystal mine in Arkansas on January 18th and 19th. She has details on hotel reservations in the area. Talk to her about reserving a space. She also announced an open invitation to join the Big Bend area club on a field trip on December 26th - 31st to the Needle Peak Area of Big Bend. Call or e-mail Laura for details.

Keith reminded everyone that Annette is in charge of the dealer dinner and urged everyone to bring something. There was no new business. Keith has fliers for members to take and post advertising the show and Rip displayed the grand prize to be given out.

Door prizes were drawn next with Rip as the first winner, then Darla (Don's wife), Annette, Travis, then Nate Smith, a first time visitor, and Penny and Tom. After refreshment break, Don presided over the gift exchange/theft (!!) game which everyone enjoyed and received a nice gift to take home. Meeting adjourned.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, Secretary





UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

I asked Laura Wilson, our new Field Trip Chairperson if she had an idea of what months she was suggesting for what trips. This is what she sent me...

O YEAH I DO.

Want a breakdown?

Tentatively and weather permitting.

January 11-12

Jim Coleman mine

w/ phone numbers of local accommodations

*my accommodations are secure

February 8-10

Topaz & tourmaline

Mason, Texas

w/ phone numbers of local accommodations

*my accommodations are secure

March 14-16

Joplin & Galena Missouri

Trilobites & mining areas

or perhaps NE Arkansas near Black Rock, Arkansas
for Dolomite & Pyrite on Calcite

April (date unknown)

Mertzon, Texas (other side of San Angelo)

touritella & BIG ammonites plus other fossils

On a 2000 acre ranch.

May (date unknown)

4 day trip to Morenci, N.M.

fly into El Paso

Victorio mining district + ghost towns

perhaps Rockhound State Park in Deming

* Maybe a joint field trip with the Oklahoma Club
or Arkansas Club. I have contacts in both those states. (smile)

A woman persistent, is not without resources!

May—undetermined

June—undetermined

*I'll also include some "local" trips (within 100 miles) to other areas from time to time in these months. More of repeat field trips, hopefully new members, and "seasoned" members to help the "new" members.

What do you think?

Laura



AMBER

by Tom Taffel, member, SFGMS since 1975

One of the four organic gem stones: amber, coral, ivory and pearls, Amber derives its name from the Arabic word for the vomit of sperm whales - a waxy material used for making perfumes. The Greeks called amber elektro, from which the word electricity is derived because if you rub amber with a cloth it will become charged, enabling it to attract small pieces of paper. For mineralogists, the Latin word succinum has come into usage as the word succinite, it's official name. However, since amber is organic, and is not inorganic with an ordered crystalline structure, it is NOT a mineral.

What do you get from a 50 million year old pine tree?

If it's seeped great globs of aromatic sticky resin, hardened and then fossilized into a soft (hardness = 1 - 3) golden "gem" you have Amber.

Who's interested in Amber?

Geologists and paleontologists for fossils and prehistoric life; archeologists for historical trade and movement of amber; organic chemists for its physical and chemical properties; botanists and entomologists for botanicals and insects; and gemological enthusiasts for jewelry.

How do you determine real vs. imitation amber?

1. Because amber is such a poor conductor of heat, (unlike minerals), it feels warmer to the touch than glass.
2. When heated, amber gives off a sweet pine smell with white smoke. Plastics, when heated smell like camphor or carbolic acid and have a disinfectant smell.
3. With a specific gravity of 1 - 1.2, amber is buoyant in sea water. The more transparent the amber the higher its density and lower its buoyancy. Float it in salt water (2.5 tablespoons of salt per cup). Amber will always float whereas thermoplastics or glass will sink.
4. Scrape the back with a knife. If it flakes, it's fake. If it is powdery, it's real.
5. If you rub amber vigorously on wool, the static charge will attract tissue paper.

Amber dates from 30 to 50 million years ago. Often confused with amber are "copal resins" which date back only a few hundred to a few million years.

Inclusions: over 1000 different types have been found!

The most valuable specimens contain inclusions such as insects, seeds, leaves and debris. Because amber dates back as far as 90 million years ago, it is unlikely you will find modern day insects. If you suspect the amber is real, but the insect, crustacean or barnacle has been added to increase its value, check very carefully for a small drill hole which was used to insert the insect and then filled with a modern resin. Often you will find tiny air bubbles coming out of the mouth of the insect as it died.

More than half the inclusions found in amber are flies. Then come ants, beetles, moths, spiders, centipedes, termites, gnats, bees, cockroaches, grasshoppers and fleas. Fine Baltic amber from Estonia, for example will have only one inclusion in every thousand pieces found.

Amber: Color and Preference

Amber's color can vary depending on the source of the hardened tree resin. For example, the most common golden yellow, white, and ivory colored amber comes from pine trees. Cherry and plum trees produce an amber with more red, orange and brown tones.

Although the rarest colors are red and green, Americans tend to prefer the transparent, warmer colors. Amber will gradually darken over the years as it is exposed to air. Other colors include: butterscotch (milky white to



caramel), cognac or honey, cherry (deep red - coming from pine and redwood trees - very rare), lemon (translucent - the most pure, green (green overtones), and antique (has been exposed to air for over 10,000 years

Classifying Amber

Although there are over 200 Polish "folk" names for amber and 80 variety names, i.e. "soily," amber can be broken down into land amber or sea amber. By color, amber can range from yellow to orange, red, white, brown, green (from decaying organic matter), bluish and dark shades of other colors giving a black appearance. Transparency can range from clear (transparent) to pale yellow to reddish-yellow.

Cloudy amber or semi-transparent to opaque can be described as

a. "Fatty" Has tiny bubbles, suspended dust particles and is usually translucent and is yellowish in color resembling goose fat.

"Bony" or "foamy" ("frothy") is whitish yellow or brown and is opaque resembling ivory or bone. This type of amber is extremely soft and not easily polished.

How Tough Is Amber?

For a being so soft, (1-3) amber is remarkably tough compared to other soft gem stones. The amber from Estonia and other Baltic Sea countries is the toughest and least brittle of all ambers. Like pearls, do not expose amber to harsh chemicals, jewelry cleaner, hair spray or perfume. Clean amber with warm water and a soft cloth.

Where Does Amber Come From?

The original source of amber is the Baltic Sea region consisting of: Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Estonia and can be traced back to Prehistoric times and was used by our Stone Age predecessors. Baltic amber has even been found in Egyptian tombs dating back to 3200 B.C. Most Baltic Sea amber (Estonia and Latvia) comes from 25-40 meters beneath the ground.

Cretaceous amber can be found in California, and Poland (along the northwest side of Gdansk Bay, Bay of Danzig and Baltic coastline, amber can still be found), and in Siberia as well.

Tertiary amber can be found in California, (Simi Valley and Ventura County), Poland, Sweden, (collected off the beaches in the southwest and in her Baltic islands), Germany, (found along the northern portion of Germany/Baltic coastline and inland along the Elbe river), Denmark, found along the west coast of Jutland from Germany to Skagen, Lithuania, (Lithuania has one of the largest amber museums in the world). Latvia in Liepaja is the School of Applied Arts, specializing in artistic uses of amber, Estonia, [Estonian use of amber in pottery dates back to the Stone Age] Russia, (Kaliningrad supplies over two-thirds of the world's amber) and The Netherlands. Although the oldest amber comes from The Baltic, amber has also been found in Mexico and The Dominican Republic.

Quaternary Amber can be found in Tanzania. This unique amber is older than copal resin, but younger than Baltic amber, Madagascar, Alaska (derived from cypress trees), Sweden, Germany and Poland.

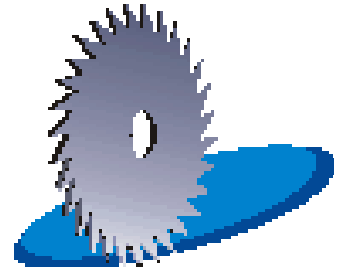
Amber, from a metaphysical perspective...

...brings romantic love, purification, wisdom, energy and balance. It enhances patience, altruism, strength, calmness, healing, remembrance of past lives and ancient knowledge. This gentle stone draws out negative energy from the body and purifies the spirit and heart as well. Amber also helps us discover ancient wisdom and knowledge.

<http://www.sfgms.org/articles/taffelamber.html>



SHOP TIPS



Measure out: Try this: Use a standard measuring teaspoon, fill it with grit of any size (coarse, medium or fine), scrape with a flat surface such as a knife blade or ruler so that the spoon is filled flat from rim to rim and Voila! You have ¼ ounce grit in the spoon. Polish is another story. It takes eight (8) level teaspoonfuls to measure out an ounce of polishing powder.

~From The Show Me Geode 2/03 via The Pegmatite 1/04, Stoney Statements 8/06. No author; via Stone Chipper 09/07

To get a high polish on onyx and other stones that are difficult to polish, go through the complete process of making the cab from grinding to polish in your normal manner. Then to the high polish: mix in a baby food jar or any wide mouthed glass, 3 tablespoons water with 9 ½ teaspoons oxalic acid, and dip your cab in this mixture. Go back to your polishing wheel for another run. You will be pleased with the results.

~From Stoney Statements, 9/03, via Chips and Chatter, 10/03. No author; via Stone Chipper 09/07



Agates and Jaspers...Best Choice for Beginners

For cutting cabs, my favorite kinds of rough are certain colorful agates and jaspers that are hard and easy to polish and generally have few fractures, pockets and other imperfections. The agates that generally fit these specifications are Brazilian agate, Montana agate and many kinds of dendritic agate from US locations. The jaspers that I like and seem to me take the best finishes are Bruneau jasper, Biggs jasper, Owyee jasper, many similar jaspers from US locations, the Imperial jaspers from Mexico, and bloodstone and fancy colored jaspers from India.

Moss and plume agates, many sagenite agates and jaspers and agates that merge into quartz formations are only second choices when choosing easy-to-cut rough. All of these stones require the touch of the experienced lapidary to deal with all the vugs, fractures, varying hardness and other problems likely to arise during the shaping and polishing of these stones.

By Theo Steinhauer via: <http://www.sfgms.org/theochron.html#agatejasper>



CLUB OFFICERS

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

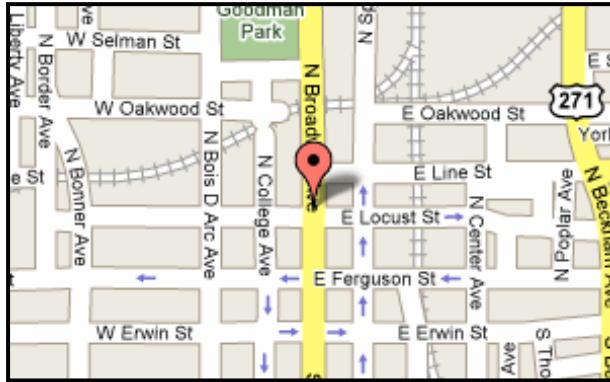
VICE PRESIDENT: Jon Laverty 903-295-8302
1611 Springdale ST.
Longview, TX 75604

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

SECRETARY: Becky Whisenant 903-795-3652
Rt. 4 Box 77W
Rusk, TX 75785

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Laura Wilson 903--894-6821
1337 CR 3402
Bullard, TX 75757

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.

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