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PAGE 1

VOLUME 34

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2008

Coming Shows, 2008

Feb 23-24

Pasadena, TX

Clear Lake Gem & Min. Soc.

www.ghg.net/gpenning/index.htm

Mar 01-02

Big Spring, TX

Big Spring Prospectors Club

Jerald Wilson (432) 263-4662

Mar 01-02

Corpus Christi, TX

Gulf Coast Gem and Min. Soc.

Call: Jerrold Simpson

(361) 851-8788

FIELD TRIP INFO

March 14-16

Arkansas Quartz Mines

See page 3 for details

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a show !!!! Great weather, great volunteers and great attendance. Friday weather was wet and cold. However, everyone got set up quickly and were ready for a wonderful meal at 6 p.m. Lots of good food, elegantly presented. Peach and blueberry cobblers disappeared quickly !! Many thanks to all involved in getting things set up and in putting on a memorable dealer's meal.

Saturday and Sunday weather was much better. The blueberry cobbler even made a repeat appearance on Saturday (although it was a brief one). People were lining up to buy tickets 15 minutes before we opened. Steady flow of people both days. Practically had to chase them out on Sunday. Lots of smiles (from club members, dealers and attendees) and lots of positive comments. As always, the rock food table was a big hit and the Pattillos were kept very busy answering questions. If you didn't make it to the show, you missed a great time.

Again, thanks to all who helped with the show. Couldn't have done it without you !!!!

Received the SCFMS newsletter the other day and made copies for the March meeting. There was a listing of shows and I made several copies of this also. Hope to see ya'll on 3/3/08 at the next meeting.

Rip Criss



MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

The program for the march club meeting will be "My Tucson 2008 Experience" I'll be showing some slides of what I saw and talking about what I experienced while out there.

Don C.



FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met February 4th, 2008 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler. President Rip Criss called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed guests Robert Ortega, Al Gay and Jared Kindred. It was also nice to see Marilyn back. There was a motion by Gene Goar, 2nd by Colleen, to accept the minutes from the last meeting. This passed. Jeri gave a treasurer's report and commended the show chairmen and all the workers on an excellent show with good results: 1,667 adults and 1,660 students in attendance. The grand prize winner picked up her treasure just before the meeting.

Under old business President Criss mentioned the information/publicity table out front at the show advertising the Discovery Science Place and that they thanked the club for allowing them to participate in the show. Gene announced that he and Becky will be presenting two programs on fossils and dinosaurs for the DSP during Spring Break on March 11th for any students present. It will be geared toward youth and will help publicize our club as well as fulfill our promise to the DSP to help with educational & entertaining youth outreach. The possibility of a summer kids' night club meeting was also discussed.

Laura reported that 9 members went on the fossil trip for shark teeth at the infamous road cut and had a great time. She announced a trip to the coal mine at Jewitt with a mine tour and an opportunity to collect the petrified wood there which has been analyzed and classified as sequoia. This will be limited to 20 people with attendees at the meeting given first priority. Laura also reported that the Arkansas quartz crystal collecting at the Coleman mine will be sometime this spring, probably in March and members planning on going should let her know as soon as possible.

Door prizes were drawn, then a break for refreshments. For the program Gene presented information on fossils, specifically mammoths, dinosaurs, and ammonites and displayed his very nice collection. He also practiced on us a little and got feedback for doing his presentation for the younger generation coming up in March. Thanks, Gene.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, club secretary



MARCH FIELD TRIP

Just giving everyone the heads up. I am planning a field trip to Arkansas to the Quartz Mines.

That's March 14-16. There will be a hike to the Three Sisters Springs @ Lake Quachita State Park. During that time too. I will have handouts, and hotel/motel accommodations at the next meeting.

Will let everyone know "ahead of time", so that more people can participate. Also, I will have some additional information about a ranch, and specimens to give away from there at the next meeting.

See you all there!

**Laura
Field Tripper**





LIGNITE ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON



Well, here we go a trippin' again! Sorry 'bout posting two stories in one mailin', but we finally got our groove.... It was 'nother purty day, not too early, but early nuff to eat some vittles at the Little Mexico in Palestine, Texas. We gathered up at the Jack in the Box at 1pm sharp, and headed to the Texas Lignite Mine in Jewett. We were early, and after clearing security at the gate we were greeted by Dave —

(the engineer at the mine.) There were 18 total in our group; two didn't make it Folks, twice the size from last months' field trip!

We were all invited inside to have a breifin'. I believe it was the first time Dave held a meetin' in the hall. (the conference area was occupied), but we did it! He told us a little about the 17 acres of this particular area, and how wide and deep the lignite is our group hit him with some very challenging questions themselves. The aerial map he showed us, and the layout of the operation, the tiny, tiny dot to the South was the buildin' we were in! We finally got our buckets and such and loaded in the two vans (that were provided for us). We drove past acres and acres of reclaimed property that are called "reclamation", but did you know they put topsoil on it, , plant it in grass, fertilize it, cut it, and use the hay (sort of recycle that too) to prevent erosion in other areas, and introduce the cutting to new reclaimed land? Did you also know that deer, coyotes, armadillos, hawks and the like are seen there, and NOBODY is allowed to hunt them? It's like wildlife preserve to boot!

Okay, okay , we're getting' to the good part. We drove up to and got to stand in a "small bucket" for a photo shoot. If you look closely, we're all wearin' the same yellow vest with orange stripes....I swear, I thought we looked more like the highway clean up crew! LOL After seeing the machinery and stoppin' to talk and get a visual on the drag bucket, we got to put on our hard hats, safety glasses, had a safety meetin' right there beside the van. Yes, we all remember the three things, right? We were collectin' petrified wood, lots and lots of it! I'm talkin' some pieces were taller that me, 5'2", and one piece with a knot in it was bigger round that Jasmine! We were totin', draggin' and haulin' with both hands the pieces we had claimed for our very own. Some of us were fortunate enough to find pyrite dollars. Our treasurer (Jeri) had one and almost two, so we claimed she had a dollar and some change!

We didn't limit ourselves to just a 5 gallon bucket, ask our secretary how much "the big one" weighed. Mine was small, and weighed in at 20lb 3oz, and that's after I cleaned all the lignite off of it. Everybody came away with petrified wood, and I'm guessin' everybody had a great time. And a thank you to Peter Cornell (F.W. G&M for coming with us, without you, and your notes, I would never have facilitated this trip.)

Many thanks to Dave @ the Lignite Plant for comin' in on his Saturday off to give us a great tour.



LIGNITE ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONT'

Folks, look for our next field trip, March 14-16 to Arkansas collectin' quartz crystals and if we have time, we'll be headin' to the creek in Magnet Cove to try our hand at bringing back some pyrite cubes too! Your Field Tripper LW



SCARCE AS HENS TEETH

By: The Field Tripper LW

Yep, that's what my grand pappy use to say many years ago. Nowadays, with me bein' the field tripper in the rock club, it had me ponderin' that there question. No we didn't go raid no chicken yard.....

Not too long ago, I volunteered my time to be your field tripper, so I was havin' withdrawals real bad, and the weather just wasn't co-operating in the dead of winter in Texas (figure that one out!) So I says to myself, self, where can we go real close, and spend a couple of hours collectin'. Did you all know that the Gulf of Mexico was right here, close, as close as Hwy 69 South of Tyler, Texas? Yep, the oceans was right there, and sharks use to swim there up to about 208 million years ago.

Ok, Ok, I guess you folks are ready for the rest of the story, now there is total truth in this here story, we're stickin' to it!

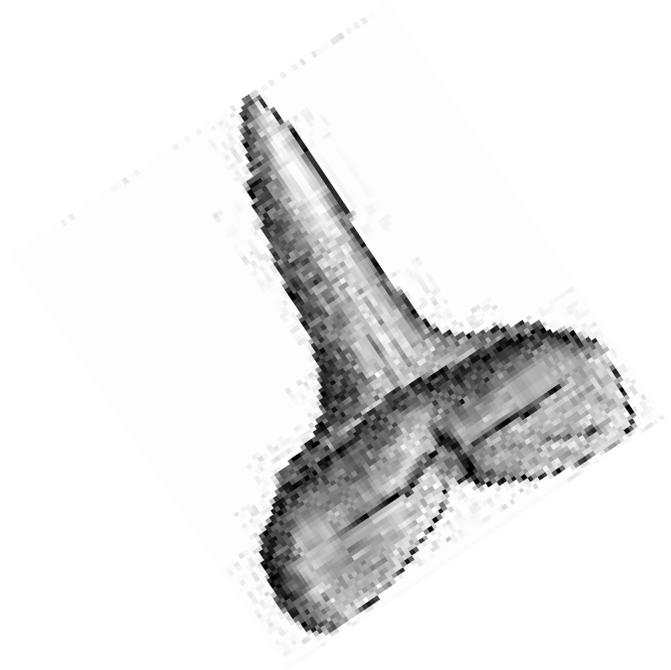
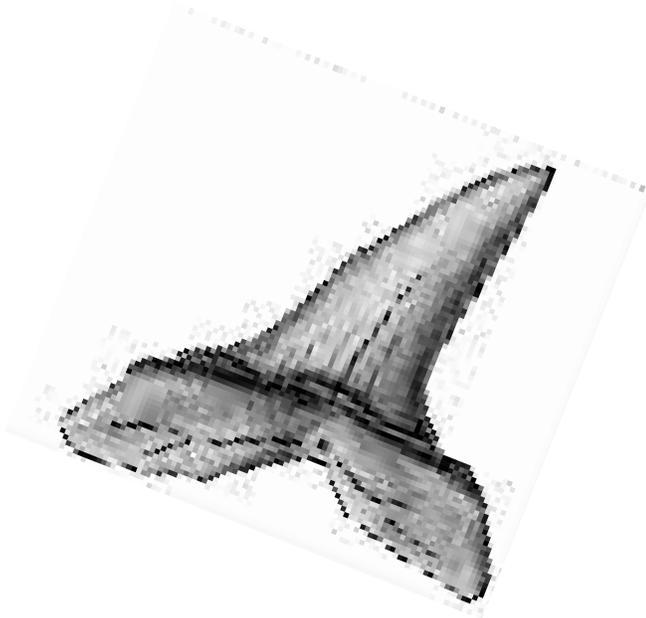
There was 9 of us total, 3 child'ens and 6 adults (or so I was told, I had my doubts about a couple of em'.) It had sleeted/snowed slightly the day a' fore, which gave the soil a great "heave" and made the collectin' a great deal easier. We parked, with our wheels cut out, and the 'mergency brake set. We were givin' hand outs, and a short talk on the area, and a visual of the right soil" to collect sharks teef' in. We were offered rubber gloves, so we could start smoothin' the ledges lookin' for them sharks teef'. Susan O. found the first un', even though I warned the adults that the child'ens keen eyes and lower CG (center of gravity) would probab'ly beat the "rubber gloves" off of us adults. LOL The sun shore was brite that mornin' and it felt so good on our backsides as we worked the ledges for 'bout 3 hours. Fore' too long the field trip chair (yours truly) was walkin', talkin', and lookin' down (yep that is what is known these days as multi-taskin') and I came upon a broken toof! Gave it away.



SCARCE AS HENS TEETH CONT'

“Fore too long you could tell the child en’s was getting’ restless (they call it somethin’ akin to BORED.) I told them they could walk along the ledges and look into the embankments and see if they could spot a toof’ stickin’ out. Okay, Okay, right here I need to do some confessin’, I just wanted the kids divert’d so the adults could continue collectin’.. Well, lo and behold one of them little rascals found one! Very nice, about inch and half, good job! So to sum it up here, we had collect’d 2 ½ sharks teef’ and came away from a great day of rockhoundin’. In closin’ my version of this here trip was good, but “it was scarcer than sharks teef’.

THE END UNTIL NEXT TIME





Exhibitors and Judges Seminar

The Austin Gem & Mineral Society, in conjunction with the South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies, will host an **Exhibitors and Judges Seminar** on Saturday and Sunday, **March 8th and 9th, 2008** here in Austin, Texas at the AGMS clubhouse on 6719 Burnet Lane. Every member of the AFMS is invited to attend. The fee is **\$15** to cover the cost of refreshments and printing costs and will begin each morning promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Topics to be covered include: preparing a display for exhibiting, AFMS uniform rules for exhibiting, how exhibits are judged, and what makes a good display. Lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday for a small donation. It will likely consist of salad, sandwich, chips, and fruit. There is a refrigerator for personal lunches and nearby restaurants for those who want to dine out.

For additional information and copies of the application form, please go to our website at www.austingemandmineral.org, email general@austingemandmineral.org or phone 512-458-9546.

To register, send in your fee along with your name, address, phone, and e-mail to:

AGMS, Attn Exhibitors & Judges Seminar
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, TX 78757

Also please indicate if you are primarily interested in learning to judge or exhibiting, as well as if your primary interest is in fossils, minerals, lapidary, jewelry, or other.

~Susan Postlethwait, 2007 Show Chair, 09/07 Stone Chipper



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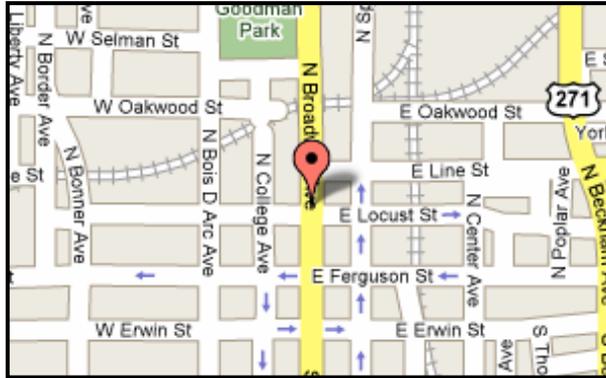
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER,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

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