



# ROCK-N-ROSE



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VOLUME 33

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2007

## Coming Shows, 2007

March 3-4  
Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral  
Show—Corpus Christi, TX

March 23-25  
Ada Gem and Mineral Show  
Ada, OK

April 7-8  
Central Texas Gem and  
Mineral Show  
Abilene, TX

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

As this is February's news-  
letter, this will be your last  
newsletter if you have not  
renewed your membership  
to the club. Dues can be  
sent to the:

ETGMS  
C/O Colleen Hayes  
P.O. Box 132532  
Tyler, TX 75713-2532

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## **President's Message**

For those that missed the January meeting, we had a great discussion on field trips. Marilyn, with help from Laura, is organizing a potential slate of trips for 2007. The members discussed where we would like to go. Apparently, folks are willing to travel to other states such as New Mexico, Colorado or South Carolina to hunt for that special specimen.

We don't have anything far away planned yet, but let's continue to kick around ideas. A suggestion was made to plan one special trip per year to a distant collecting site. Do you have a favorite collecting area or a place you have read about that you would like the Club to visit? Bring your ideas to our next meeting and give Marilyn a call or e-mail. Perhaps together, we can plan that special trip!

Also at the next meeting, we are going to look at materials for our first Swap Box. A Swap Box is ten pounds of neatly labeled and prepared rocks, fossils, etc. that we trade with another Club for their ten pounds of goodies. The interest has been in fossils for our first box. If you have any high quality regional fossils you are willing to donate, please bring them to the meeting. We'll take some time to figure out what goes in the box.

Finally, a question. Does anybody know anything about Earth Day to be held in April at Camp Tyler? We've heard that information tables can be set up to distribute literature. Rocks, gems, minerals and fossils all come from the earth so this may be a good place to tell the public about the Club. Let us know anything you can about Earth Day. And let us know if you would be interested in staffing a table to tell people about our Club.

Well, I'm going to go dig through my boxes to find something for the Swap Box. Remember to bring any fossils you can spare and field trip ideas to the March meeting - Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. 6:45 PM.

See you there!

Jon L. Laverty  
President



### March 17th Fossil Cleaning Class:

Don Campbell will be conducting a fossil cleaning class for club members on Saturday March 5th at his work shop. The class will be limited to 3 people due to the limited amount of room and equipment. He will furnish the fossil specimens (trilobites), and each attendee will get to try their hand at cleaning fossils. The class will start at 8:00am and end at around 12:00pm. Additional classes will be scheduled for April and in May so everyone will get a chance to attend. Call 903-520-4085 for more information.

### MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

The program for the March 5th club meeting will be part II of Don Campbell's program about collecting, cleaning, & and preparing trilobite fossil specimens. Part I was about the field collection of trilobite fossil. This month he will show us slides of how to clean and prepare the specimens.

### FEBRUARY MINUTES

On February 5, 2007 the East Texas Gem & Mineral Club was called to order at 6:50 by President Jon Laverty. Guests were welcomed: Teresa Alsbrook was present to receive her adult grand prize from the show and Christian Day proudly received his student grand prize. These were presented and photos were taken. Colleen gave a treasurer's report and made note of changes in the new member directory. She gave numbers from the show this year which was a significant increase over last year. Jon noted the generous donation by the family of Bonnie Feather, faithful member recently deceased. A portion of her collection greatly contributed to the funds raised at the silent auction table.

The president then discussed our field trips and how we can increase interest and participation. Planning field trips far in advance would allow members to put them on their calendar and be more involved in club activities. Our February trip was cancelled due to cost. Instead, there will be a trip to the selenite & petrified wood area just west of Elkhart on Feb 24. Marilyn Austin discussed future field trip possibilities for the upcoming year. These include: turratela limestone from near Brownwood, an educational Llano County geology trip, the Coleman quartz crystal mine in Arkansas, the Houston Museum of Natural History gem/mineral exhibit, Midlothian/Hallsville trip for marcasite, pyrite and/or fossils, Lake Texoma ammonites, trilobites near Tishomingo, OK, and cretaceous fossils on or near Marilyn's ranch near Killeen, as well as a trip to Fossilmania at Glen Rose, TX. Marilyn also wants to keep in mind day trip possibilities such as Livingston Rock Shop, etc.

Jon tested our I.Q. and thinking outside the box with a quiz, but what we really learned from that is to duck when he tosses candy rewards to someone behind you. The president thanked everyone for helping, volunteering, and doing everything to make the show possible, and Don requested suggestions and volunteers to give programs for future club meetings. Receiving door prizes were Mattie Coburn and her mom (past club members welcomed back), Laura, Darlene, Al McWilliams, Rip, Daniel Maxson (Darlene's), Susan B, &, last but not least, Penny!

After break (with really great refreshments -- thanks to some thoughtful members), Don gave a presentation on South central Oklahoma trilobites. He discussed the collection process. beginning in the field, i.e., location & identification, and will conclude next month with cleaning and display details. We recognized some of our rock hound friends collecting at Don's friend Bill's mine near Clarita. We viewed various species of trilobites, including some beautiful and rare ones. Thank you, Don.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant



## ETG&MS ANNUAL SHOW

**This year's show was a great success, with attendance reaching almost 2600 people. Many of the attendees just could not get enough of the 'Wheel' and the Silent Auction table. With many choice specimens auctioned there coming from Bonny's collection. Children young and old alike were amazed as always by the great 'Banquet' tables set up in the lobby. Of course great interest was given to the Adult and Student Grand Prizes this year. Wouldn't each of us have liked to add one of those amethyst cathedrals to our collection? Personally, I liked a lot of the Student's prize pieces too. What makes a show such a success? Rationally, you would think it would be getting people in the door, or even having good vendors. You are very right in thinking that, however, it requires more. Good participation from our club members, including all the organization, food preparation for the Dealers' dinner, and volunteered time and energy by everyone that makes everything work so well. So thanks to all who helped out in any way with this year's show!**



Upper left: Banquet centerpiece. Lower left: Pork chop, baked potato, and veggies anyone? Above: President Jon Laverty with winner of the Adult Grand Prize, Teresa Alsabrook, and winner of the Student Grand Prize, Christian Day



## Bonny Cross Feather

Nov. 27, 1922-Feb. ?? 2007

Obituary Taken From The Palestine Herald-Press

Memorial services for bonny Cross Feather, 84, of Palestine, will be at 1 p.m. Monday at the First Christian Church with Dr. Jerry Elrod officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Bailey & Foster Funeral Home, Palestine.

Mrs. Feather died Wednesday at the Weston Inn Hospice at Scott & White Hospital in Temple.



She was born Nov. 27, 1922, eldest daughter of Maggie Joe and Durnal Cross of Anderson County. She Graduated from Palestine High School in 1939. She attended the University of Texas 1940-1941 and numerous other colleges and universities from California to Mississippi, graduating from the University of Arizona with a BA in education in 1959 and an M.Ed. in 1964. Earning her nursing degree at age 52, she worked as a RN in Washington, DC., Granada, MS., Jacksonville, FL, and Oral Roberts Hospital in Tulsa, Okla.

She worked in an aircraft factory in Fort Worth and Marietta, GA., during WWII. Mrs. Feather met her future husband, Leroy, in Galveston when a handsome young man with a new little red car spotted her on the street. They married Aug. 4, 1945, in Hannibal, MO., while he was on leave after serving 27 months in the South Pacific with the Seabees, 47th battalion. They returned to Galveston where she stayed as he returned to service in California. Their daughter Bonise was born in 1946, followed by Leroy Jr. in 1950.

During early years of marriage the family moved often as Leroy's civilian employer posted him to industrial construction jobs throughout the United States. Bonny raised children and attended colleges, picking up credits over 17 years in seven colleges until graduation in 1959 at the University of Arizona.

She began teaching third grade in 1960 in Tucson, Ariz. Where they made their home. In 1962, she earned her private pilot's license, opening new horizons as well as quicker travel to Leroy's postings in California and her parents in Texas.

Over four decades, she flew her Cessna 172 and later her Grob motor glider with family and friends throughout the United States, Canada and Alaska as well as brief (somewhat unintentional) flights to Mexico. She was a member of the International Organization of Women Pilots, the 99's since 1964, a member of chapters in Tucson, California, Houston, and South Louisiana, and contributed to numerous service activities. The Texas Dogwood Chapter honored her with an inscribed paver in the Texas section of the International Forest of Friendship in Atchison, KS., (home of Amelia Earhart). She flew into her 80's.

She volunteered throughout her life. She was a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader. She served on the board for the American Red Cross and taught CPR and first aid for many years. She was a campground volunteer in Wisconsin, and Garner State Park in Texas. She went to Poland with Global Volunteers to teach children English as a second language, and to Midway Island/Atoll to observe and record an endangered species of seals. She worked as a volunteer race monitor at the Shreveport Hot Air Balloon races. She served as a Texas Department of Aging Ombudsman at the Greenbrier Nursing Home in Palestine until her relocation to Temple in July 2006.

During her 50's she operated a small cow/calf operation in Anderson County during her husband's lengthy absences on construction assignments. In 1979 they made Palestine their permanent residence.

She attended Grace United Methodist Church as a child and resumed her attendance when she and Leroy returned to Palestine.

An incorrigible hobbyist, Bonny's home was a testament to her passions and interests. Most recently, rock hounding produced specimens from many field trips, and friendships among the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society. She was a member of the Palestine Opsimath, a seniors' creative writing group. Her RV was her vehicle of choice for domestic wanderlust, but trips to Ireland, and the United Kingdom, Europe, New Zealand, the Canadian Arctic Circle, Mexico and the wilderness areas of Alaska were opportunities to meet interesting people in youth



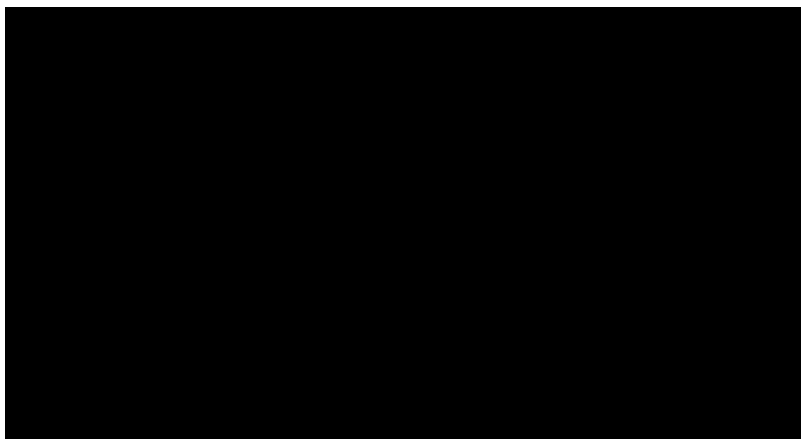
### Bonny Cont.

hostels, tent campgrounds as well as castles, private homes and other odd spots. She eschewed tour groups for the independence offered by a car or Eurorail pass. Her collection of witches (the first women pilots) and turtles (who carry their homes on their backs) were a source of whimsy and memories.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Leroy Feather in 1996; brother, Harris Hollan Cross; sisters, Shirley Johnson and Carolyn Yancey. She is survived by her son, Leroy, Jr. (Bud) of Temple; daughter, Bonise of Philadelphia, and their spouses, her brother and sister-in-law Durnal and Ruby Cross Jr. of Riverside. She leaves behind eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends with a reception at the First Christian Church following the service.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be sent to Palestine Crises Center, c/o Donald Hammock, 313 W. Debard, Palestine, TX. 75801, or to the Heifer International, at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).



### BOOKS AND GUIDES TO ARKANSAS' MINERAL TREASURES

#### Collecting Crystals

The Guide to Quartz in Arkansas  
by Darcy and Mike Howard  
published by A&I Studio Press, 2000  
recent updates included with book

This text answers questions about digging crystals. Beginners as well as experienced collectors can use the information and maps in this book to plan collecting trips, find crystals, and prepare them for display or sale. The major quartz collecting locations are described, as well as the many varieties of quartz crystal that can be found in Arkansas.

A guidebook written for all persons who collect quartz, either as an amateur, advanced hobbyist, or serious collector. Step-by-step, this book takes the collector through the complete process of getting ready, getting to the best sites, collecting, cleaning and trimming the crystals for display at their best. 100 black and white photographs and illustrations.

The authors are Darcy and Mike Howard, the husband and wife team who created this web site.

Retail Price: \$12.95 Softcover  
order the book from A&I Studio

#### Mineral Species of Arkansas

by Mike Howard  
published by the Ark. Geological Commission, 1987

This book contains all known mineral species in the state, listed alphabetically, with over 100 black and white illustrations. I will even autograph it for you if you request it! Hardback \$14.95, softcover not available. order from A&I Studio

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Rocks & Minerals Magazine, Arkansas Issue July/August 1989

The official publication of both the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, all of the articles in this issue are about Arkansas.

Includes a general geology article and a variety of articles about popular collecting sites from the past 15-20 years: Magnet Cove, Granite Mountain, wavellite, quartz, north Arkansas zinc mineral collecting, and one fossil article; lots of color photos. The authors include J. Michael Howard, Henry L. Barwood, Henry DeLinde, Arthur E. Smith, Albert L. Kidwell, Richard S. Mitchell, Robert I. Gait, and the Ouachita National Forest Service. Magazine Price: \$10.00 Supply very limited, order this out-of-print issue from A&I Studio

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Contact these other places for more information:

Arkansas Geological Commission <http://www.state.ar.us/agc/agc.htm>  
3815 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204 (501) 296-1877

Mac B. Woodward, director. Geologists on staff are available to help you identify your finds and answer the questions you have.  
email [agc@mail.state.ar.us](mailto:agc@mail.state.ar.us) A list of publications can be obtained free upon request from the Map and Publications department at the address above.

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Arkansas State Parks

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)682-7777

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University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Earth Science Department  
Fribourgh Hall Room 307  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
2801 South University Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72204

As a community service, the department answers calls from individuals that have questions or want information about any geology- related topic. The Earth Science Office phone number is (501) 569-3546.

University of Arkansas at Fayetteville  
Department of Geology  
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department home page <http://www.uark.edu/depts/geology/>

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Ouachita National Forest  
John Nichols, Forest Geologist  
P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902 (501) 321-5202  
Minerals and Geology

A synopsis of a handout entitled "Rockhounding, Mineral Collecting, and Our National Forests" by John Nichols, Forest Geologist, Ouachita National Forest - Feb. 1997

In several National Forests, the Forest Service has developed mineral collecting sites. Examples include sites in Montana, Idaho, and the

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Ouachita National Forest of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Additional sites are being studied for their feasibility for public rock and mineral collecting. A number of the National Forests already have free literature giving general specimen localities and Forest Service policy and rules for rockhounding. A number of the National Forests have a history of placer gold mining and provide information as to use and restrictions on suction dredging.

There are, however, certain areas designated as off-limits to collectors, principally due to the classification of the land. Restricted lands presently include wilderness areas and designated portions of "wild" rivers. The US Forest Service only manages these areas as set forth by the US Congress (Consequently, it does no good to fuss at the "caretaker" about this situation. If you don't like it, you should become politically active and write your Congressman and Senator. Ed.).

Every collector should become familiar with the laws and regulations under which the Federal Agency administers the public lands the collector wishes to visit. At present, there is no "right" under law for mineral collectors and rockhounds to collect specimens from public lands, like the National Forests. There are some Acts which "open the doors" for us on National Forest lands. They include: the Organic Act of 1897 which recognizes that access to federal minerals is an important use of National Forests to many people. And The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The FLPMA calls for a balance among all the uses to "manage", "protect", "preserve", and "provide".

The activity of collecting generally does not "significantly" impact or disturb other Forest resources. Therefore, by simply contacting the local District Ranger, the collector may find that notification is all that is necessary to receive "permission" to conduct their hobbyist activities. An example is simple digging with hand tools for mineral specimens. If a club desires to collect a site using heavier equipment, perhaps a backhoe to prepare the site by exposing specimens for the club members, and the purpose is for the collection of specimens for personal collections, not to sell or trade, then a District Ranger will need to visit the location before hand, simply to examine the area and determine if other Forest resources might be negatively impacted. If approval is given for such club activity, then a written agreement will be signed to determine who the responsible parties are and what their activities will be restricted to. A bond will probably be required to insure land reclamation after use of the site is over.

Many advanced collectors and clubs are concerned with the advancement of the mineral sciences and education of their membership. Collecting by individuals or clubs who are involved in education by publication of articles in professional or lay journals is considered important by the District Ranger. Access may often be granted for these special collecting activities, by temporarily opening a closed road to assist collectors. District Rangers appreciate the general public's right to study and learn from that study.

So, the key to access for mineral collectors and rockhounds on National Forest land is communication. Make contact with the District Ranger and tell them who you are, where you want to go, and what you want to do. (You may be surprised by the positive response you receive. Ed.)

Mike's Rant: Be honest. If you want to collect minerals for resale or trade, then go through the system that is established for commercial ventures. Let the hobbyists have an unstained reputation. To me, the greatest problem for hobbyists and even serious mineral collectors is the greed of certain individuals who will tell everyone they are hobbyists, then they haul away truckloads and leaving nothing for the next collector. These types of people give all our hobbyists a bad name. If you saw someone back up a truck and start emptying out your neighbor's home, you'd probably call the police right away. I strongly suggest you contact the US Forest Service District Ranger should you see someone cleaning out a locality in the same manner.

The handout with the above information is free upon request from the U.S. Forest Service by writing to: P. O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71901 or by calling (501)321-5202. John Nichols, a geologist, is also a rock and mineral collector and has considerable empathy with we hobbyist-type collectors. He is very concerned about the recent attempts at regulation of our hobby on public lands without having public comment necessary to obtain a complete picture of the various types of rock and mineral collectors who wish to pursue the hobby and enjoy access to public lands. It is truly refreshing to find someone working for the Federal government that I can say is friendly to our cause. I have been privileged to be involved with John, Albert Kidwell, Henry deLinde, Charles Steuart, and others to try and assist the U.S. Forest Service to define the various types of collectors who utilize public lands. Note that I say collectors, not commercial people. There are already numerous regulations covering the commercial recovery of minerals, both for collectors and industry, on Forest Service lands.

Thanks to Rip Criss for finding this information for us off the internet.



### CLUB OFFICERS

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### NOTE TO EDITORS

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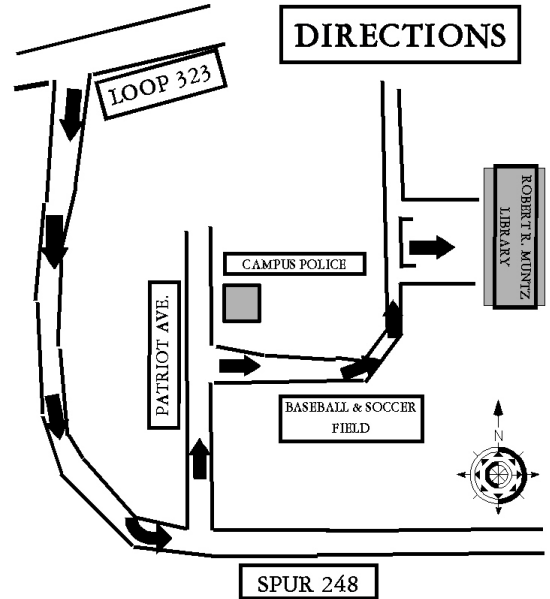
#### Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

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.

**THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE UT LIBRARY. MEETING BEGINS AT 6:45 P.M.**



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Editor's Note: If you missed your newsletter last month this is why. For several months I had been having computer problems, and finally last month my PC crashed. This resulted in the loss of all Club files and programs. While I was acquiring another copy of some of the programs and getting another computer up and running, Laura Wilson was kind enough to take up the slack and put out a newsletter last month. She did not have an address list to send out copies so the only way you would have gotten one was to come to the show or this month's meeting. Now, I've got everything up and going again, so please, enjoy!