



# ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2015

## Coming Shows, 2015

**January 23-24**

**Tyler TX  
East Texas G&MS  
Rose Garden Ctr.**

**February 14-15**

**Georgetown, TX  
Williamson Co. G&MS  
San Gabriel Park**

**Plainview, TX  
Hi-Plains G&MS  
Ollie Liner Ctr.**

**March 07-08**

**Big Spring, TX  
Big Spring Prospectors Club  
Howard Co. Fair Barn**

**Robstown, TX  
Gulf coast G&MS  
Regional Fairgrounds**

**Pasadena, TX  
Clear Lake G&MS  
Pasadena Convention Ctr.**

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to 2015, and an all new newsletter! Over the last few weeks I've been glancing through the newsletter archives we have stored on the ETGMS.com website. Take the time to look them over, as there have been so many educational and entertaining articles included over the years. With our history of having award winning newsletters, thoughts were given to the way I wish this newsletter to go throughout the new year. Hopefully you will enjoy the results of my redesigning the headers and tweaking the layout.

As we head into my ninth year as editor, I am looking forward to the contributions of the club's members to make our newsletter stand out and to further our love of the gem and mineral hobby. It is never just one person who make things work. Thank you to all who have contributed articles and photographs over the last year. It is a blessing to have newsletters exchanged from other clubs for content, but our club member's contributions that flesh out the content.

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be preparing the packet of articles, features and poems to send off to the 2015 Authors and Editors contest. The deadline is February 14 and will be here before I know it.

Keep in mind you don't have to have a huge knowledge of any aspect of the hobby to write something for the newsletter. However, sharing what interests you most likely will interest other club members too. Susan Burch



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## President's Message

It time to start a new year, make new plans, and get out on a new rockhounding adventure. I'm looking forward to mine. After all the excitement and activities of January are over, I'm headed out for a long deserved vacation. My last adventure was cut short due to mechanical problems. This trip should prove to be a lot more enjoyable. The plans are to travel the southwest until the temperatures warm a little. And maybe if you have a good rock hunting location you want to share, I can make a stop there too. I don't plan to come back until the truck is full.

We had more 20 members show up for the work day, if you want to call it that. It looked like everybody was having too much fun to call it work. Everyone was hard at it, we even got a picture of Keith Harmon getting creative. It was a very productive day, and it looks like we should be in real good shape for the show. Thanks goes out to Jan Faulkner for bring that big pot of homemade Italian soup and bread.

I know all our members are aware of our Annual Gem & Mineral Show coming up January 23 - 25. I appreciate the response from all the members that stepped up and volunteered to help with the show, set up display cases, donate materials, and attend the workshops. It really shows that our club is coming together. I want to remind everyone that we will be setting up for the show January 22 starting at 9 AM. We will need as many volunteers there as possible to help.

Through the past year I have noticed a lot changes throughout our organization. More members are beginning to step up as leaders, I hope this continues throughout the year ahead. We have a lot of goals that we want to accomplish. The top priority for the club now is to work on getting a workshop. I believe this will be the year to achieve our goal, if we continue working together as a group.

The display cases at the Tyler Library that ETGMS members set up will be on display until January 30th. I want to thank the members that took their time to set them up. I have to say they really look nice. I know some of you have already taken the time to stop by and take a look.

I have been making a lot changes to the etgms.com website. Susan Burch has helped with some suggestions on composition and design. There is one new page, and plans to add a couple more. The website is one of our biggest tools to draw new members. And with some effort it can be a useful tool for our members. I need input from you, suggestions, pictures and your club related activities, and so on. For the website to be effective it needs to grow. Take a little time and check it out.

Kinney Polve



## JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

President, Kinney Polve, called the meeting to order on January 5, 2015, at 6:45 p.m.

Three new members were introduced.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made by Carolyn Davis and seconded by Bill Faulkner.

Colleen Hayes gave the treasurer's report. This is the last month to pay annual dues and remain on the membership list without missing a newsletter. A silent auction item was open for bids and door prize tickets were available.

Lapidary Arts Sub Group: A meeting was not held in December due to the holidays. Instead of a Lapidary Arts meeting this month all members will be meeting on Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m. until projects are finished. This meeting will held at the Bullard Church of Christ. Maps are available for pick up. The map was emailed to members. If you have items to be used at the January Gem Show please bring them to this workday.

Field Trips: Fred Mahaffey, field trip chairman, announced a trip on February 21 to the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas in Austin. An indoor trip is planned due to the uncertainty of weather at that time of year. Sign up if you are interested so that you can be notified details of trip or late changes if necessary. Since he is just beginning to plan trips he would like the help of everyone with information on places they would like to go or how well they liked past trips.

Newsletter: Susan Burch is looking for items to put in the newsletter. Please share with her news and pictures on your projects or information you find interesting that applies to the club.

Old Business:

- \* Kinney presented a certificate to Bill Faulkner in honor of his service to the club as Treasurer. Bill worked very hard to see that all accounts were kept in the proper order and attended to numerous other issues for the club.
- \* Thank you to those who helped set up display cases at the Tyler Public Library. This is important publicity for the January Show.
- \* The following progress report was given for the Gem Show. Two display cases are available to anyone wanting to set them up. Remember these are important to demonstrate the club's interest to those attending the show. Volunteers are needed on Thursday, January 22nd starting at 9:00 a.m. to set up. Volunteers are needed after the show on Sunday, January 25 to take down. The gold panners will be at the show on Friday. The Food Table now belongs to Keith Harmon and will be set up for the show.
- \* Many have volunteered to work at the show but more are still needed. Sign up sheets are available. Check them out and please add your name. You can also call Keith or Kinney to volunteer.
- \* Discussion was conducted concerning monies. A motion was made to transfer \$20,000 from the checking account and Money Market monies to several CD's. The new accounts should have five signatures on record and require two of those signatures for withdrawals. The Board will determine the five signatures. This motion was made by Keith Harmon and seconded by Becky Whisenant.

New Business:

- \* Before the Gem Show in January 2016 an investigation needs to be made into finding someone that prepares bulk mailings. We are looking for someone to prepare the postcards and mail them at an acceptable cost.

The next meeting will be February 2. Pete Keiser will present a program on coprolite.

Euva Scott made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Randy Harmon seconded the motion. Refreshments and door prize drawings followed.

A short demonstration on how to make stands for gems was presented by Pete. He stressed that at the workshop volunteers need to make sure their work is of good quality. The rest of the program was the annual "lick and stick" where all put stamps and address labels on post cards to mail to the people who attended the show last year.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Davis





### ANNUAL LICK N' STICK MEETING REPORT

If you missed the first meeting of the year for the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, you missed a fun and productive gathering. January has become the annual pre-show Lick 'n Stick meeting where members work together to address and stamp 4,700 cards which will be mailed out to announce the annual gem, mineral and jewelry show.

Twenty-eight members sorted, labeled and stamped the cards after conducting club business and enjoying refreshments.

President Kinney Polve presented Bill Faulkner with an East Texas Gem & Mineral Society Rockhound Performance Award for his contribution as club treasurer for the past two years. Bill is a great example of a committed member who is supportive of the club. His contribution is greatly appreciated, but no more so than that of all his predecessors and current members who have filled offices over the years.

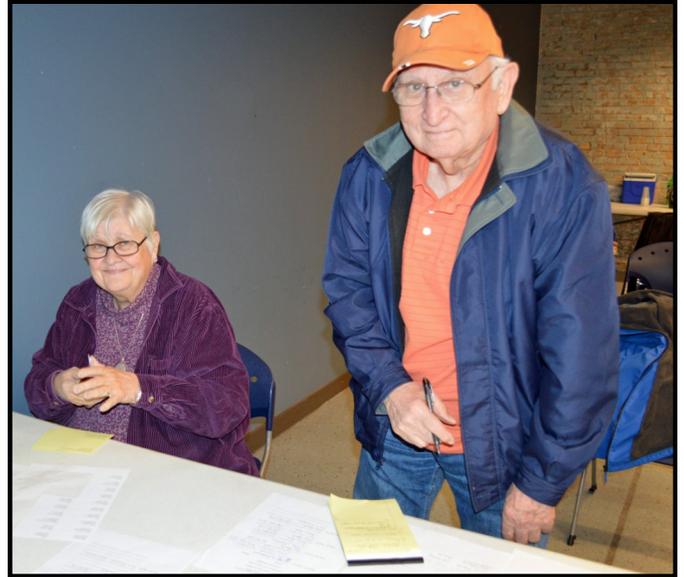
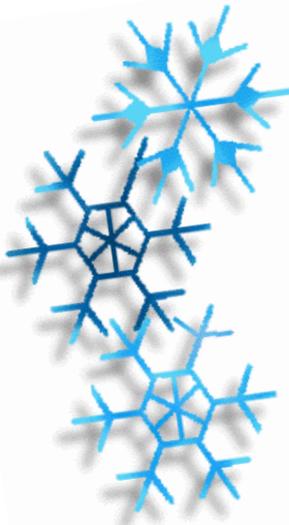
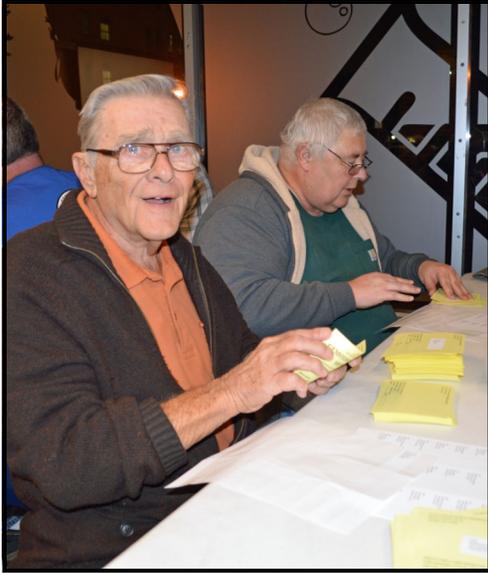
Don't miss out on the fun January 23, 24 & 25! Come help set up for the show on Thursday, help with school day on Friday or discuss our hobby with people from all over who come on Saturday and Sunday. If you are not signed up yet, call Keith Harmon, Kinney Polve or Becky Whisenant. See you at the 19th annual Gemstone and Jewelry show!  
Becky Whisenant

*At right, President Kinney Polve presented Bill Faulkner (aka The Fall Guy) with a certificate of appreciation for his two years serving as club treasurer.*



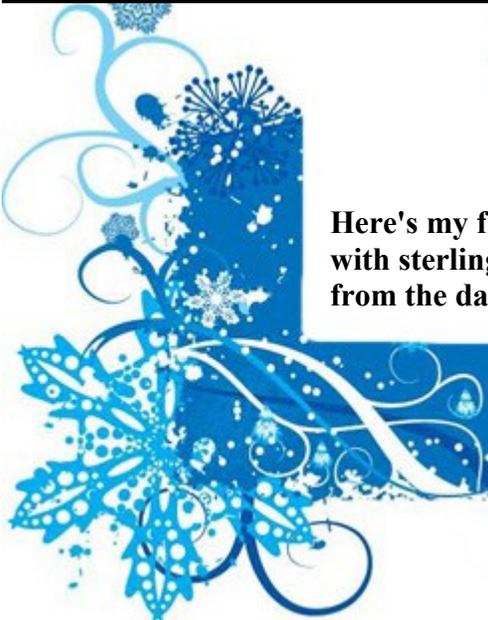
*At left, Junior member Lindy Sheffield with dad Ron at the annual Lick N' Stick. Photos submitted by Becky Whisenant.*





*More pictures from the January annual Lick N' Stick meeting.*

*Above left, Jack Shull and Mike Howe; Above, Carolyn Davis and Gene Goar; At left, a group shot—getting down to serious business. Photos submitted by Becky Whisenant.*



**MEMBER PROJECT**

**Here's my first Tree of Life pendant made with sterling silver wire. I really like the fade from the darker pink to clear. Kinney Polve**





# MEMBER HAPPENINGS



Above: ETGMS members Jack Shull, Randy Harmon, David Polve, Vicky Polve and Kinney Polve set up the display cases at the Tyler Library for the month of January. Please, take time to go by and check it out.



## KISSAM ELEMENTARY UPDATE

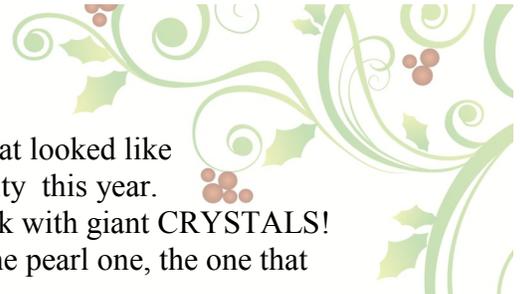
Here are a picture and one of the letters I just received from Kissam Elementary in Chapel Hill ISD, where I presented a session on gems and minerals a couple months ago (October, I think). They are so sweet and sent me a thank you note, but this one was a special Christmas Thank You from one of the students. Sherry Breedlove

Dear Mrs. Breedlove,

Thank you for teaching us about the TEXAS rock, you know, the one that looked like pizza! Thank you so much for coming to share with us for Kissam University this year. I really enjoyed you're rocks. My favoriet, favorit, favorite one was the rock with giant CRYSTALS! Then my second favorite was the black smooth one. My last favorite was the pearl one, the one that always, well I bet sometimes is found in the sea.

Then you're class was my favorite session, don't tell anyone. Thank you again for coming and I hope you will be back next year for KU!

Sincereley, Laila





**BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH**

**TAPERED REAMERS** — A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use everyday, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin.



Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.

**TESTING FOR SILVER** — With the price of silver as high as it is, jewelry people need to keep their scrap metals sorted. Part of that process is identifying some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox.

Silver testing solutions can be used to distinguish high silver content alloys like Fine (.999), Sterling (.925) and Coin (.900) from alloys that have the same appearance but no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41 for \$3. With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. Procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I get when testing various materials:

Fine silver	Red/Orange	Nickel	Gray-green
Sterling silver	Brick Red	Copper	Yellow changing to blue
80% silver 20% copper	Dark red changing to gray	Steel	Black
Brass	Yellow changing to blue	Stainless Steel	No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Always have a solution of baking soda and water handy to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.

**Attribution to be included 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/)



**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.

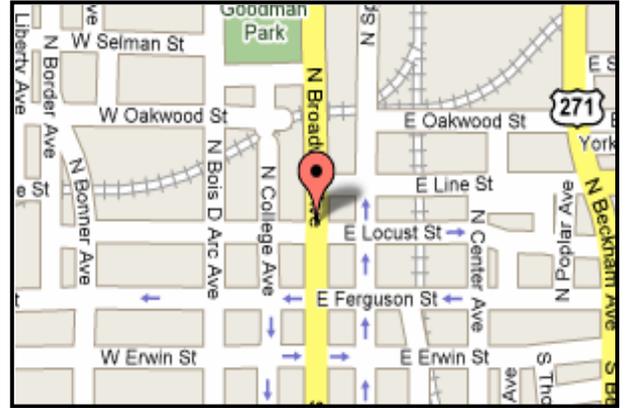
**WHERE:**

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

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