



# ROCK -N- ROSE



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VOLUME 33

TYLER, TEXAS

## Coming Shows, 2007

No known shows until August

## !!ATTENTION!!

Due to Library issues,  
our clubs' meeting is  
moved from July 2nd,  
to **July 9th.**  
Tell a friend.

## FIELD TRIP NEWS

No field trips scheduled  
for July, as it's just too  
**hot!**

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## President's Message

There are a lot of things going on in our Club from field trips to finding a new location to meet and developing a Kids Program. I've put together some notes here to keep everyone updated.

But first, I'd like to tell you that the Austin Gem and Mineral Society is hosting a show Exhibitors and Judges Seminar on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. That's off in the future a ways, but it never hurts to plan ahead. We had some interest in Judging Classes some months back. Well, this is the result of the regional interest in show exhibits. Seminar topics will include preparing a display, AFMS Uniform Rules, how exhibits are judged and what makes a good display. The cost is \$15 and covers refreshments and printed material. For more info and application forms contact the Austin Club at [www.austingemandmineral.org](http://www.austingemandmineral.org).

Marilyn Austin has been busy working on new field trips. She has learned that the petrified wood location near Jasper is being sold and may no longer be available for collecting. We can get down there one more time before it closes if there is enough interest. Contact Marilyn at [austin-era@hotmail.com](mailto:austin-era@hotmail.com) if you want to make a last run for wood.

At the last meeting we briefly discussed the Kid's Program. Our thoughts are to target the 8 to 9 year old children first. They are old enough to have interest and may ultimately join the Club. At first we'll have members invite kids to a program. We are also looking at working with local Boy and Girl Scout programs as a source of interested youngsters. We'll start slow doing a couple of programs a year. The first will be headed by Gene Goar with dinos and fossils as the topic. We can hold the first program as soon as we find a better location to meet.

We have several possibilities for a new meeting location. The UT Tyler Library can no longer accommodate us, so we need a new meeting spot by the end of the year. I'd really like to move before school starts up in the Fall to avoid parking problems. As soon as new arrangements are made we'll get the word out! Until then, we continue to meet in room 422 at the UT Tyler Library.

See you at the next meeting – July 9, 2007 6:45 PM!

Jon L. Laverty  
President





## June Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Jon Laverty at 6:56 on Monday, June 4, 2007 in room 422 of the UT – Tyler Library. Jon opened the meeting with a discussion of the urgent need to find a more suitable room for the club meetings. He noted that with the lighter classes for the summer term, parking should not be such a problem for the next few meetings. He also said that of the new meeting sites under consideration, most require that meetings be over and everyone out of the building by 9:00 p.m. With the recent change of meeting time from 7:15 to 6:45 p.m. this may be more feasible and still allow time for an informative and enjoyable meeting.

There were no new visitors present but Jon drew a chuckle from the crowd with his acknowledgment of Lester Langston as a long-term visitor. A motion to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2007 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose Newsletter was made by Bob Jameson and seconded by Gene Goar. Jon acknowledged the presence of Pete Kaiser, long time member and past club president, who has been working out of state and unable to attend the last several meetings. The members joined their president in voicing the sentiment that Pete has been missed. Colleen Hayes gave the treasurer's report.

Next item on the agenda was a report on club field trips by Marilyn Austin who is in charge of arrangements and planning for the trips. A proposed trip to look for fossilized shark's teeth in the Love's Lookout area on Hwy 69 near Jacksonville was cancelled due to lack of interest and confusion over the dates of the trip. Marilyn had news that the land south of Jasper, TX, where the club has gone in past years to look for petrified wood may be sold. She was given the news by a member of the Austin rock club whose members went there the previous weekend. The acreage was previously owned by Temple Inland but is reportedly being sold to private individuals who will not allow clubs use of the land. Marilyn asked if there was interest in getting together a trip before the land was closed and many hands were raised. She will work towards putting together the outing after she gets more details. She went on to say what great trip the outing to Llano had been (see articles in the May 2007 issue of Rock-N-Rose newsletter) and to thank Don Campbell for all of his hard work in putting it together; this was greeted with a round of applause for Don. She asked Don if he would consider doing another trip next year and Don said that he already is planning a trip to the Arbuckle Mountains in OK. Marilyn asked if there was any interest in fossils and offered her ranch northwest of Austin for a field trip.

The next question posed was where in Smith County was Goethenite found and the answer was that it is basically iron ore and found in Smith and other counties in East Texas. It was noted that interest in a trip to OK to collect barite roses has waned due to the impending heat of summer. Gene gave an update on the property he had expected to collect on and the lady currently in charge of the estate said her father does not want collecting. Gene said he does have a line on another location. Susan Oravetz spoke about a club trip two summers ago to the Baylor University campus to see a traveling exhibit from the Houston Museum and how much the participants enjoyed it. She asked if anyone knew where the exhibits were scheduled to be and there was a general discussion about the Houston Museum and a museum in the Arbuckle Mountains. Susan asked if the club could do another trip to the Llano area again and Don said it might be possible to get one in after the area cools in the Fall and before the various hunting seasons opened. Gene said that on a recent trip to Longhorn Caverns he met a retired paleontologist who gives tours and that might be an interesting outing during the hotter months.

Marilyn had a sample of Tektite which she showed to the members and said that it comes from the area around Lake Somerville in Washington County, TX and that would be a possible gathering trip.

Jon asked if there was any old business, there being none, he asked if there was any new business and since there was none, he moved on to the proposed Kids Program. He expressed regret that Becky Whisenant was not there since she is heading up that project. He asked for volunteers to join Becky and Gene and asked Gene what age group they would like to target and was told that the third or fourth grade. Possible meeting places and times were discussed and ways to get the information to the kids.

Door prizes were awarded and several members were multiple winners, generating much good-natured ribbing.

The program for the evening was "show and tell" and was led off by Bob who spoke of a recent field trip to NC looking for rubies. His best "find" was a large crystal he found in a rock shop and purchased at a good price. He also had a cinabar bracelet to show. Marilyn had samples of Balmorhea agate, both polished and rough, to pass around. Gene had 5 display cases of arrowheads which he has been collecting since he was 10. In the cases were selections of different types of arrow and spear points and a rare eagle with spread wings which was worn as an ornament by a tribal chief.





### June Minutes Continued'

Gene also had samples of modern arrowheads made by flint knappers using ancient methods and a quartz blade knife of remarkable sharpness.

Don had trilobites to show and pictures of a recent trip to gather them and an encounter with a man who wrote the definitive book on trilobites. He noted that Ricardo is not interested in actually gathering the specimens but what he can learn about them using laboratory technology; demonstrating that our hobby can be enjoyed on many levels.

Jack Shull said that he has been sick for a month and his only trip has been to MN on a fishing expedition to the Birch Lake area. While there he managed to combine two hobbies and found marvelous examples of red banded jasper along the lake shore. Laura Wilson was next with her recent trip to Demming, NM for geodes at the Pancho Villa State Park which is south of the better known Rockhounds State Park. She had samples and pictures to pass around. She also had a cab. she got in the Dominican Republic and Nancy Laverty had done the wire wrap to turn it into a pendant.

Susan spoke of her trip to Israel in Feb. and her dip in the icy Dead Sea where she managed to pick up rocks with her toes as it was too cold to get down into the water. She had rock crystals from the Sea, pebbles from the Garden of Gesemene and a pottery shard from Masada to pass around and share with the crowd. Pete brought us back to the US with his recent trip to NM and the Bingham Mines where he and Colleen gathered blue fluorite, galena, crystals, barite and amethysts. He is a member of a club that had arranged the trip and they had access to sites not normally open to gathering. Pete had to crawl and slide into fissures to get some samples but one spectacular formation was so perfect he left it untouched – for others to find and marvel at. Lester was the next speaker with the information that if you happen to find yourself outside of Marfa, TX at the roadside park waiting for the world famous Marfa Lights to appear, take out your portable black light and shine it on the rocks around the park for a real show.

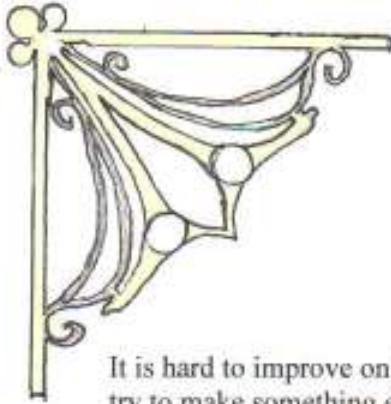
The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 by the president.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins for Becky Whisenant, Secretary



### July Program

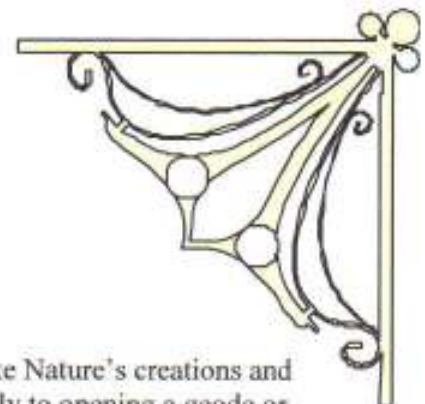
The club meeting program for the July 9th club meeting will be "Mineral Names, The origin of the names of minerals". Presented by Don Campbell.



## OPINION CORNER

### Gilding the Lily

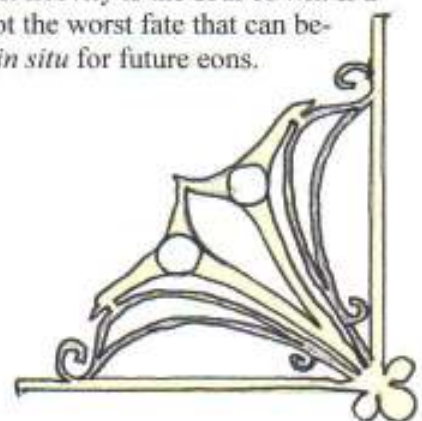
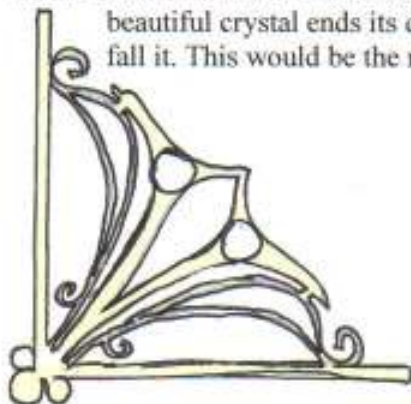
By J.W. Downs  
AGMS Club Member



It is hard to improve on Nature, yet we have a strong tendency to take Nature's creations and try to make something else out of them. Obviously this does not apply to opening a geode or cutting and polishing a slab of stone to reveal the beauty of its structure. Agate frequently can be shown to better advantage when its colors are enhanced by judicious dyeing and the color of some crystals can be deepened by heat treating or exposure to radiation. All of this is fair practice to bring out the natural beauty of gems and minerals.

My objection is to the use of Nature's wonderful creations as a vehicle for something "cutesy." Does a metal deer or fisherman placed inside an otherwise beautiful geode or a Buddha glued to a nice piece of jade really improve it? Possibly the worst examples are hand-painted images of Indians (canoes optional) or amply antlered deer heads on otherwise flawless slabs of polished Brazilian agate. It would take a leap of the imagination to say that these items have been improved with the addition of the art work. This is analogous to young junior high school girls who think that they can improve their looks by applying eyeliner, lipstick and other artifacts of make-up in the belief that it makes them more beautiful. They do not realize that they have already reached a high degree of perfection and that nothing they could add would be an improvement. Frequently we see an object and immediately think, "What can I make out of it?" Some mineral specimens are pressed in to service as bookends, which, in some cases can be a convenient way of displaying the symmetry of a good stone. This is better than making a wastebasket out of an elephant's foot or a hat rack from a moose head. It can be validly argued that neither the elephant nor the moose had been improved by the taking of its property and that the lives of the hunters probably had not been notably enriched. An egregious example of improving on Nature was seen in a California store that sold quartz crystals that had been modified to have four sides and a pyramidal top, resembling an obelisk. Someone had taken high quality hexagonal quartz crystals up to six inches in length and modified them because "their vibrations were more powerful in this shape."

The most important part of art is knowing when to quit. Finishing touches on sculptures and paintings have sometimes been disastrous. Examples in music are legion. Upon hearing a Beethoven symphony, one young music student remarked that Beethoven missed a lot of good stopping places. Brevity is the soul of wit. If a beautiful crystal ends its days unadorned in a display cabinet, it is not the worst fate that can befall it. This would be the next best thing to remaining undiscovered *in situ* for future eons.







## They Came From Outer Space

By Laura Dow

There has long been an unknown in the diamond industry – the source of so called “Carbonado” or Black Diamonds. Most diamonds are found in or around eroded kimberlite ores. They were formed in the deep, high pressure zones in the Earth’s lithospheric mantle and brought to the surface by the eruptions of deep rooted (90 miles down or more), volcanoes. The cooled volcanic pipes are a rock called kimberlite. These diamonds are typically 1 to 3.3 billion years old.

Another rare type of diamond is found at the sites of meteorite falls and is formed due to the extreme pressure of impact. These are known as “micro-diamonds” or “nano-diamonds.” Black diamonds, in contrast, are not found in kimberlite, but are in seemingly unrelated geologic locations. Most are found in Central Africa and Brazil. There were many conflicting theories on their formation, none of which accounted for all the properties of the stones. Recently two researchers from Florida International University analyzed the hydrogen found in black diamonds. They theorize that the amount of hydrogen present indicates that these diamonds formed from the interstellar clouds of a supernova explosion. They would have made their way to Earth as smaller parts of meteor bodies falling all over the planet.

So, for an “out of this world” keepsake, consider the Carbonado Diamond ring, if you can find one!

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbonado> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond>

[http://www.livescience.com/environment/070108\\_spacey\\_diamonds.html](http://www.livescience.com/environment/070108_spacey_diamonds.html)

## Diamonds

It is said that Alexander the Great found a valley full of both diamonds and poisonous snakes. No one could work out how to retrieve the jewels until Alexander had the idea of throwing raw meat, to which the diamonds attached. When eagles flew down for the meat, Alexander’s men just had to follow them to their nests. It sounds like fantasy but diamonds are attracted to fat, and the story reminded people of how to tell real diamonds from fakes. DeBeers still practices Alexander’s trick in their South Africa mines today. They use “grease tables” and only the valuable stones stick.

*–From The Rockpile 2/07; Thomas Dialog-Financial Times 3/06,  
via The Pick and Dop Stick 4/07, Quarry Quips 5/07*



## Field Trip Etiquette

By Mark Carter

1st VP, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

For collectors who love the thoughts of field trips I take this opportunity to outline some absolute essentials of being a good collector, club member, citizen and yes, even a human being. The lack of common sense threatens our hobby and along with increased legal exposure for hosts, may essentially put an end to field collecting in our generation.

1. Be invited. (Sign up and attend. Obtain property owners permission. Respect claims.)
2. Be prompt and punctual. (Don't show too early or heaven forbid one minute late.)
3. **Be polite to all members, hosts and property owners.**
4. Collect only what you need within reason.
5. Take care of fences, gates, trees, plants, livestock and everything.
6. Respect the Holy Grails of forbidden collecting - parks and historic sites.
7. Always collect in such a way as not to pose a threat to yourself or any other collectors.
8. If you've collected in an area before, make sure novices understand what and how to collect there.
9. If you're working a good area give the less knowledgeable collector a chance to collect when you're tired. (Who knows, you may be old one day and one of these young collectors now will help you out with physical strength you no longer have?)
10. Take care of what you collect. (Identify and store appropriately).
11. Be a good guest. (If you've brought goodies for you bring some to offer your host.)
12. Take care of yourself; watch your hydration, sun and weather exposure.
13. Unless special circumstances have been arranged, **DO NOT HAVE A FIRE!!**
14. Pick up more trash than you brought.
15. Monitor other collectors to keep them safe.
16. Never undercut a bank.
17. Never allow your tailings to fall down on another collector.
18. Always work carefully overhead.
19. Know what you're looking for and do your homework.
20. Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated!
21. Know and bring equipment you need.
22. Have appropriate transportation.
23. Be able to be flexible if plans change.
24. **Don't complain about the field trip unless you're willing to plan the next one and settle for the same PAY as the field trip leader. [SC editors' emphasis :)]**
25. Enjoy the outing even if NOTHING is found.
26. Share excesses with youth or those unable to attend.
27. Let others know where you have gone so someone knows where you are and when you will return.
28. Watch out for inherent risks, (snakes, cactus, poison ivy, etc).
29. Park cars legally and sensibly.
30. Watch children and consider carefully taking your pets.
31. If you do take pets, clean up after them.
32. Use common sense!!
33. Don't let "after collecting revelry" become disturbing to those around you.





Field Trip Etiquette Cont'

This is a rather lengthy list, I know. But in my many years of collecting, I've seen each one of these ignored and this lack of respect is slowly diminishing our areas available to enjoy our hobby. The conventional wisdom held by many of our law making bodies is that there is no place for collecting. Let's not be responsible for strengthening that argument.

*~From Chips and Chatter, 6/07*

### Volunteers

A fire started on some grassland near a farm. The county fire department was called to put out the fire. The fire was more than the county fire department could handle. Someone suggested that a nearby volunteer bunch be called. Despite some doubt that the volunteer outfit would be of any assistance, the call was made. The volunteers arrived in a dilapidated old fire truck. They rumbled straight towards the fire, drove right into the middle of the flames and stopped. The firemen jumped off the truck and frantically started spraying water in all directions. Soon they had snuffed out the center of the fire, breaking the blaze into easily controlled parts. Watching all this, the farmer was so impressed with the volunteer fire department's work and was so grateful that his farm had been spared, that right there on the spot he presented the volunteers with a check for \$1,000. A local news reporter asked the volunteer fire captain what the department planned to do with the funds. "That ought to be obvious," he responded, wiping ashes off his coat. "The first thing we're gonna' do is get the brakes fixed on our fire truck!"

*~From The Flint Gemstones, 11/00, via Glacial Drifter 11/00, The Roadrunner, 1/07*





## CLUB OFFICERS

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SHOW CHAIRMAN:	Keith Harmon 8316 Oxford ST. Tyler, TX 75703	903-581-4068

## NOTE TO EDITORS

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Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

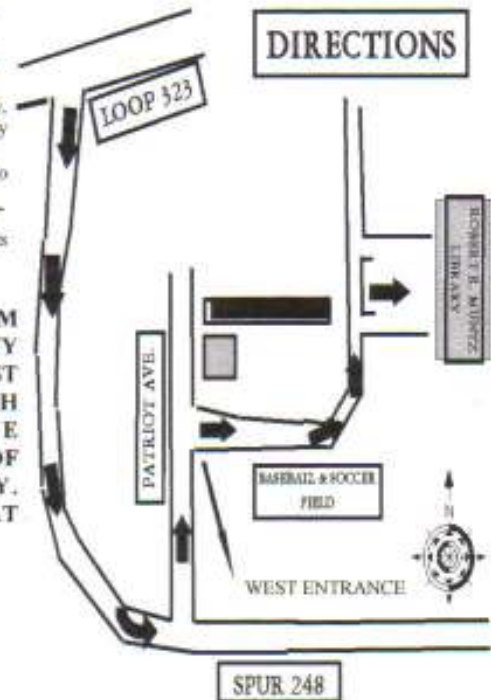
Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts.

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., ROOM 422.**

## DIRECTIONS



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