

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2015

Coming Shows, 2015

JULY 11-12

TULSA, OK

Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society

Central Park Hall

Tulsa County Fairgrounds

AUGUST 8-9

BATON ROUGE, LA

Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society

Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel

AUGUST 15-16

BOSSIER CITY, LA

Arklatex G&M Society

Bossier City Civic Center

SEPTEMBER 25-27

HUMBLE, TX

Houston Gem and Mineral Society Hum-

ble Civic Center

SEPTEMBER 9-11

MOUNT IDA, AR

Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce-

Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz

Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Held in conjunction with the Annual

Amateur World Championship Quartz

Crystal Digging Contest

OCTOBER 10-11

TEMPLE, TX

Tri-Cities Gem & Mineral Society

Mayborn Civic Center

Click the hyperlink above for more
shows around the United States

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a little busier than normal this month for me. I've still been spending most of my time in the workshop, slabbing and cabbing. Tweaking wheels on my cabbing machines, to get that perfect setup. And trying new things that challenge my lapidary skills. And more than normal break downs. The more it runs, the more things can go wrong. I bent one of my slab saw blades beyond repair. Now I am using it for a teaching tool. The members attending the L/J group meeting know what I'm talking about, they had the opportunity to see it. But all in all it's been a great month, and I have a nice bunch of cabochons to show for my efforts.

I also took a little time to speak at two of the area clubs, Ruck County Metal Detectors and the Tyler Outdoor Adventure Club. They both wanted a 20 minute program for their meetings, but I informed them that it is very hard to get a Rockhound to only talk for 20 minutes about rocks. Needless to say they were both about 45 minutes. I find it fairly easy to control myself and keep the program short, if it wasn't for all those questions. It never surprises me the amount of people in to area that are interested in rocks and fossils. The thing that does continue to surprise me is how few actually know that there is a rock club in Tyler, and how surprised they are when I tell them, there has been for over 50 years. I find a lot of joy in my hobby, so I like to share that experience with others so those who might have the same interest have the opportunity of knowing that there are others out there that can help them get started. These opportunities to speak to groups about ETGMS and the different aspects of our organization are important and essential for our club's growth. I had one of those club member stop by my house, and spend about a hour talking about rocks. Also there were a few others that were interested in attending our next monthly meeting.

The ETGMS website is doing its job too. We had another person contact us concerning our Lapidary/Jewelry group meeting, via the website. We do allow non-members to set in on one of our L/J group meeting. She attended the meeting, and shown interest in joining the club at our next monthly meeting. For this reason I keep encouraging club members to send me information for the website. And for those of you that haven't checked out our website, take a little time to do so, etgms.com .

Summers here, so it's time to get out there and the outdoors, and go pick up some rocks. Remember to be safe, don't take chances, and take plenty of water with you. It looks like it's going to be hot out there.

Kinney Polve



JUNE MEETING MINUTES

President, Kinney Polve, called the meeting to order on June 1, 2015 at 6:45 p.m.

There were no new members or guest at this meeting.

Kinney announced that the silent auction item was a fossilized sand dollar. No door prize tickets were for sale.

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

Kinney gave the treasurer's report for Colleen Hayes.

Lapidary Arts Group: The May meeting program was on proper techniques in cab making. The June 13th meeting will be at Kinney's workshop.

Field Trip: The field trip to the Sulfur River to find fossils was canceled due to high water. It will be re-scheduled at another time. May 23rd members gathered to go to the Monticello Mine near Mt. Pleasant to hunt for Petrified wood. Even with the change in location the trip went well. The next trip will be June 20th. Please put your name on the sign up sheet for visiting the Midlothian Cement Quarry to look for fossils, iron pyrite, and possible calcite crystals. Fred Mahaffey asked that you contact him if you are interested in an overnight trip to Arkansas to hunt quartz crystals.

Newsletter: Susan Burch would like for you the help her with articles to put in the newsletter. So many have stepped up to make our newsletter very fulfilling for the hobby. Also send your article to Kinney and he will add it to the web site.

Announcements: Kinney has vests, patches, and pins for sale if you are interested. The vests help identify members when you work at the annual gem show in January.

Old Business: Everyone needs to keep thinking and looking for a possible clubhouse. This would really benefit the whole organization.

New Business: The election of club officers will be at the September meeting. The positions are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and two board members. Please consider offering your name for nomination to one of these positions. This is a very important way that you can contribute to the club.

We have received a request from the Whitehouse Community Library to present a program for the summer children's activities. You can select your date from June 23rd, July 14th, or July 16th. Please let Kinney know if you can provide this program.

The next meeting will be July 6th. Jack Shull will present the program on fluorescent minerals.

Trish Hamilton made a motion to end the business meeting. Mike Howe seconded the motion. Kinney drew numbers for door prizes. Refreshments and visiting followed.

The planned program had to be moved to July so our program was a surprise. The video from the Royal Terrell Museum in Canada was very entertaining.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Davis



THE ROCK HOUND'S FIELD GUIDE TO VERBS-PART I

By Becky Whisenant

Forget seventh grade grammar and your high school English teacher's disapproving looks. Verbs, the parts of speech which show action, can take on a whole new meaning for a rock hound out in the field. No, really. While you may resemble some of the definitions below, this is not required reading but may show up later in a test of your character or collecting skills.

Brushing: the stroking motion used to remove dirt from rock surfaces, clothes, skin, shoes, your tongue, your glasses, the truck seats, your sandwiches and any accompanying dogs or companions

Calculating the Haul: a method used to solve the following equation: vehicular volume + humans - expendable items such as food = or > the maximum amount of material possible to transport home; (No calculator is needed since we all know the real issue in today's math class is self esteem and whether everyone feels good about themselves, except rock hounds who could not care less.)

Carrying: the act of transporting stones, stones and more stones from here to there, back and forth, up and down, up and over, over and out.

Classifying: assessing the booty according to silent auction value, cabinet specimen possibilities, friend offerings or leaver-ites, making certain the chosen ones receive the most protected spaces

Digging: pawing the ground for a delicious mineral tidbit like a hound dog from an Elvis song, heedless of broken nails—yours or the dog's

Drinking: the intake of liquids to stave off dehydration and to avoid having to admit said condition to your spouse — not to be confused with bars, alcoholic beverages or happy hour

Gobbling: not the sound a turkey makes, this type of gobbling is the swallowing of one's food at lightning speed so you can get back to the important stuff (please note turkey imitations are not allowed even if you are intruding on their habitat)

Hiding: a. "Oops, how did that get in my pocket???" or, b. the act of locating the best potty spot far enough away from camp but not too close to wildlife and carefully downwind of both.

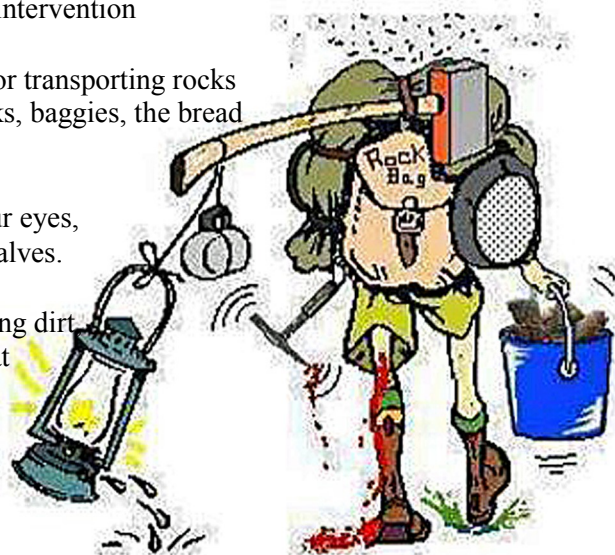
Kneeling: a careful bending of the knee to make contact with the ground in order to examine an exposed tip, to dig yet another hole, to rest, to throw up from heat exhaustion or pray for divine intervention

Labeling: slapping masking tape on everything you have repurposed for transporting rocks back home -- boxes, newspapers, bubble wrap, bags, buckets, backpacks, baggies, the bread sack, the ice chest, the first aid kit and the lipstick bag from your purse.

Perusing: walking in the Monty Python style, head down, averting your eyes, O Lord, tanning the already brown skin on the back of your neck and calves.

Picking up: the action employed to acquire a hoe, a tool used for digging dirt or a 'ho, the fun term for a less than savory female sometimes present at club meetings whom no one seems to know.

Searching: the constant movement of the eyes and head along with the use of any available tools—yours, a friend's loaner or the ubiquitous left-behind tool from the previous crazy hound.



Continued on page 4



Shifting: what happens to your priorities in life while in the field; i.e., to bleed or not to bleed, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler to expend precious collecting time searching for a band aid or suffer the slings and arrows of companions when you drip red on their pile of rocks.

Sorting: arranging the booty (yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum) for the trip out to reality; this immediately precedes labeling.

Spying: examining the layout of the land to determine where to dig first as you pretend to listen carefully with one ear to the trip leader's briefing.

Squatting: assuming the position, quickly but carefully, behind a secluded boulder, tree or shrub, dodging pesky poking plants while searching frantically through your pockets for a forgotten Kleenex

Turning: over not a new leaf, but every rock possible (up to and including the one which weighs as much as you) to be sure no beautiful underside is overlooked, underestimated or otherwise ignored

Washing: the application of liquid to your treasures for the purpose of identifying, admiring or chunking; preferably done with water but saliva is acceptable when children are not present



LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP MEETING

The June meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at Kinney Polve's workshop on Saturday (June 13). Nine members and one guest attended the meeting. Kinney has been working on some new cabbing techniques as a result of taking a challenge from the Lapidary Challenge Group on Facebook. The challenge was to create some mosaic cabs and send pictures to the group in Facebook. Kinney described how to make a mosaic cab and showed the lapidary group some examples of the cabs he had made. The cabs turned out very well and he will be working on new cabs to show the group later.

John Schultz was present and brought a mosaic cab that he had made using strips of mother-of-pearl from an abalone shell and Jet separated by thin strips of brass. It turned out very well with the sharp contrast of the two different materials separated by the brass. Kinney then helped one member saw some rocks that she had collected in the past. He also showed the newer members of the group his equipment and some of his huge collection of rock he and Vicky picked up over the years in different states.

The next meeting of the L/J Group will be held on July 11 at the home of Terry Roberts or a different location if details of an alternate location can be worked out in time.

Terry Roberts

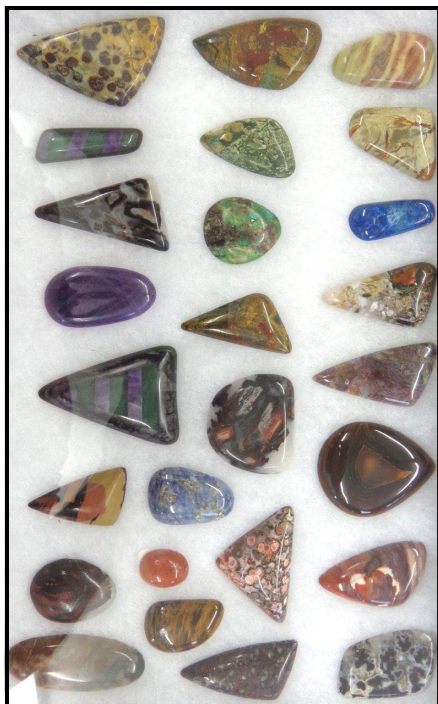


Above right: This is the finished cabochon from the last L/J group meeting. Don't take off any points for the slight misalignment of the pieces. Thanks, Kinney

At right: A group shot from the June meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group, photo by Vicky Polve



Here are a few cabs I made in the last month. Kinney



Member Happenings

At right: I thought you all might like to see what a talented rock artist can do with some really nice Queensland agate slabs that make petals for flowers. Johnny French bought about 50 lbs of the Queensland agate nodules at the Alpine gem and mineral show last April and donates them to various friends. He usually sends me some of the goodies too. Terry Roberts

Bottom left: I finally received the award for winning the Rock & Gem Magazine Lapidary of the Month contest, and I'm donating the Dremel tool to the club. Kinney

Bottom right: Here's one from the last field trip that went in my display case. Kinney





TRIPPING THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF COLORADO

By Susan Burch

Colorado was not our main destination, we were headed to Cheyenne East High School in Wyoming. My boyfriend Robert's daughter Kari was graduating this year and hers was the first high school graduation I would attend. However, being the inventive guy he is, our trip would take a few twists and turns along the way.

Robert headed to East Texas from Houston so we might drive together. Our driving flight (this is where you take turns driving as long as you can on an almost straight shot to your destination), began early Thursday morning June 4. We drove from Alto to Grand Prairie, Texas where my sweet mother lives. She was kind enough to drive us to the airport not to catch a plane, but to the rental car lot. After picking up a sweet SUV with less than 3,000 miles on it, we headed through the north end of the metroplex and out Highway 287 on the way to Amarillo. If you are not familiar with the scenery through this portion of Texas it has broad expanses of rolling hills and grassland studded with Mesquite trees. One visitor's center we made a stop at overlooked a vast park area with a fast flowing cover of water from the recent deluges.



Leaving Amarillo, we headed over to New Mexico's north east corner on Highway 87...a little bit of long driving later we hit Denver after dark. During the trip we watched spectacular lightning storms over the mountains in front of us as the road twist and turned. This is where things get a little interesting, instead of heading up I 25 on to Wyoming, we made a jag over to Boulder on Highway 36, heading to Estes Park. The lightning storms we had been watching earlier had poured rain onto Boulder causing several roads to be covered with water. One of these was ours and after winding through the town trying to find another way up the mountain, State Troopers pulled behind us as they had seen us turn around at one of the road-blocks. They were kind enough to let us know the road was now open. Whew, only an hour dawdling in Boulder and we were traveling up the narrow mountainside past a car hanging off the side of the mountain with emergency vehicles attending and many deer.

Arriving in Estes Park and to it's main attraction, The Stanley Hotel which is not only famous for the family who built it but also being featured in Stephen King's *The Shining*, and the movie *Dumb and Dumber*. No words can describe it's grandeur and I was amazed as I took an early morning stroll around the property, the front of the hotel is shown at right.



Friday morning we explored Estes Park including two rock shops, of course coming away with a find or two. We then headed up to Rock Mountain National Park to do a short hike so we could touch snow, look at scenery and the rocks of the area. On the way down, we



stopped at a few pull-offs for me to get my fix. Along with some galena, a piece or two of pink with green spotted rock and a piece of sandstone, I collected several pieces of pink granite with mica and quartz including the two-feet-wide-plus piece pictured here. Yes, I love yard rocks too.

After having a late lunch, we continued our trip to Wyoming. Although I had contacted the local club about rock hounding in the area (about an hour or so drive from Cheyenne are purported to be nice fluorescent minerals to collect), we did not get to take advantage of this due to the storms reducing our extra time. After traveling through mountain passes, I was surprised by how flat Cheyenne and the eastern part of Wyoming is.

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We joined Kari for dinner Friday evening and my first meeting with Robert's daughter went well. For graduating, I gave her my newest wire-wrapped creation, a jasper pendant with green agate beads, a mother of pearl carved flower, oval green dyed mother of pearl for the leaves and a center of ruby beads (her birthstone), set in sterling silver.

After staying the night in Cheyenne, attending the graduation from 9:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, we headed on our long way home. Meeting construction along the way, we veered over from I 25 to Highway 287 for the remainder of the trip back to Dallas/Fort Worth. In the middle of nowhere, another first for me, a full rainbow! We had been driving in and out of showers all afternoon, and I had to stop and take a few shots for a panoramic view. After getting back on the road we noticed this was not only a full rainbow but a double rainbow, however only one end of the second rainbow is barely visible to the right in the photo which does not do this phenomenon justice. We had also seen many wide rainbow ends throughout the afternoon.



After arriving late and staying Saturday night in Amarillo, we headed to DFW to turn in the rental. My sweet mother picked us up and after dropping her off in Grand Prairie, we headed home to my house and then Robert on to Houston. Other than discovering I'd gotten a really weird intense sunburn from wearing lace during the graduation and a fishing net mishap (that's a whole other story), overall we had a very nice and productive trip. With many first experiences for me, and of course bringing home rocks, I look forward to going back through Colorado and perhaps collecting fluorescent minerals on our next venture up to Wyoming.



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

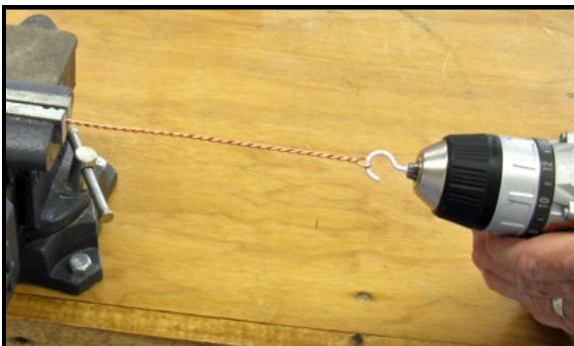
SOLDERING PRONGS—I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But prongs can be a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them all upright while soldering, and the simple butt joint that looks strong sometimes breaks when you start to bend the prong over the stone. There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone *#~*!

I solved both problems with one little trick. It holds the prongs in position while soldering and it gives you a stronger joint at the same time.

Locate and center punch the position for each prong. Then drill holes a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and stand them up in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

TWISTING WIRE—Twisting wire can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Foreman should do well.

Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Grip the free ends of the wire in a vice and slip the looped end onto your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.



Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with variable speed.

Please include the following attribution 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/



Check us out on the web: WWW.ETGMS.COM

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.

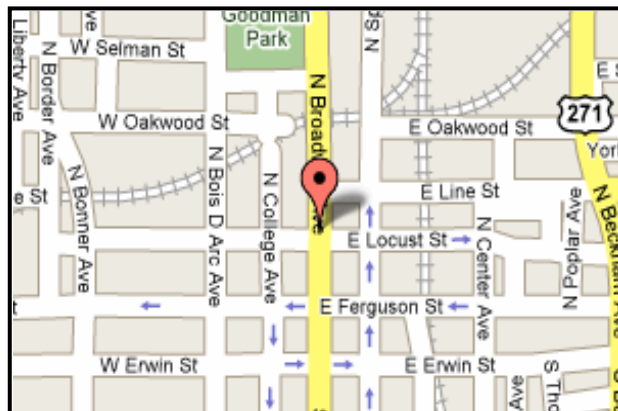
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place
308 N. Broadway
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

Adults: \$10.00
Juniors: \$2.50 with adult membership
Family: \$20

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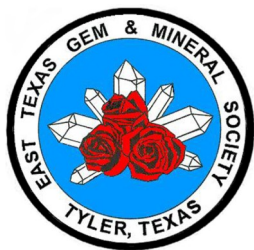
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