



ROCK -N- ROSE



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VOLUME 34

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 7

JULY 2008

Shows August, 2008

9-10--BATON ROUGE, LA
Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Soc.
contact Paul Broussard
(225) 939-3293 cell

15-16--TAHLEQUAH, OK.
Tahlequah Rock & Mineral Society;
contact Sara Brasel (918) 458-0801

16-17--BOSSIER CITY, LA
Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society-
Bossier Civic Center

22-24--HOT SPRINGS
AKS Gem Shows
Hot Springs Convention Center
contact Kay Schabillon
(504) 455-6101

23-24--JASPER, TEXAS
Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soc.
VFW Bldg., FM 2799 and FM 1747,
7 miles west of Jasper
contact Lonnie Stalsby
(409) 382-5314

30-31--ARLINGTON, TEXAS
Arlington Gem & Mineral Club
Arlington Convention Center
contact Karen Cessna (817) 903-5980

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Was a nice meeting. Program for the night was show and tell. Folks brought their "treasures" with them and told everyone there about them. Lots of love for all things rocky in that room !!! Again, we've got a lot of talented people with a vast array of interests/talents in our club. Don't be afraid to volunteer to put on a program, even a short one.

Got some fun field trips coming up. I haven't been doing much collecting except on my place while fixing fence line and making hay. Have made a few short trips to local collecting sites for petrified wood, selenite crystals and pyrite/marcasite clusters, but nothing major. Been too busy and too hot. I know that fuel is expensive but there are ways to economize and still go on a field trip (car pooling, camping out, sharing a motel room, etc.). For those that can make the trips, please collect some extra materials. Also comes in handy for the club auctions and as door prizes. Hope to see ya'll at the next meeting and on the next field trip (Lambert Ranch in San Saba - known for its turitella and crinoid limestone).

Rip Criss

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JULY MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 7:05 by President Rip Criss on July 7th, 2008. There was a motion by Penny Hawkins to accept the previous month's minutes as distributed at the meeting. Allen Middleton 2nd and this passed. Jerri Kitchens gave a treasurer's report. There was no old business.

Field trip chair Laura Wilson reported that even though there will be no August field trip, there will be a trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Saturday July 12th with discount tickets available to the exhibits and IMAX. Interested members should meet at the museum, between 10 & 11. There is a big field trip planned for the 1st weekend in September to San Saba to the Lambert and the Kirkendall ranches for drusy quartz, fossilized coral and other fossils. This will be an all day Saturday event with several other area clubs participating. She will have details at next meeting.

Door prizes were drawn with Brenda, Penny, Euva (twice), Susan O, Travis and Cameron (Ed's great-granddaughter) winning some beautiful samples. Thanks to the generous souls who cheerfully contributed these treasures.

After a refreshment break, one of our favorite programs of the year was held -- Show & Tell. Several members, old and new, young and mature (!) proudly displayed items of interest from our hobby and explained their individual stories. Variety was the word of the night. From very artistic "rocky" stained glass, to mutant (or maybe just unlucky) trilobites, to a uniquely displayed collection of tiny pebbles, all the way to some 'shisty'/shifty/shi*#__y garnets (you had to be there), we saw it all. The good, the bad and the not-so-ugly. As always, an enjoyable evening for all of us.

Don adjured anyone to consider presenting a program for future meetings on any subject relevant to our hobby. Meeting adjourned 8:45.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, secretary.



AUGUST MEETING PROGRAM

TBA



GEOPALOOZA AND I LOVE LUCY!

This had to be one of the best indoor field trips I've taken in a long time! There were four of us, and we made the most (and I mean most) out of this trip! Our story begins with an Agatha Christie, "The Unexpected Guest" performance Friday night. We sat spellbound, with the plot unraveling before our eyes, the finale, being the person least likely to have done the murder, did it! We received a bio on Dame Christie, and she reads like a novel herself!

Houston was, and is always a bustling city, but we left our vehicles in the garage in the hotel, and took the Metro-Rail (sort of a cross between a train and a bus) for a buck we rode from downtown Houston to the Museum District. (As Margi Miller would say, we were big girls). The Houston Museum of Science has so many interesting exhibits, we had fun **ALL** day. My husband (whom works at Baker Atlas in Tyler) their Corporate Headquarters are in Houston, and they are large sponsors of the HMS.

For \$12.50 each we got to enter, and see pretty much everything! Thanks Honey!

Carol Moore & I went to The World Premier of Lucy's Legacy; the Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia and it was fantastic. (Susan O. & Margi Miller did the Museum of Art.) **PEOPLE**. Just **FYI**. Lucy isn't an ape, nor is she a human. Her DNA classifies her as a young hominid, and what is interesting they suspect she died from a Crocodile attack. Taking into consideration the teeth marks on her bone in the upper part of her leg. Other great items are the original fossils and artifacts from Ethiopia spanning 5 million years of history and pre-history. Ethiopians have only been able to see Lucy twice in display, (she is usually vaulted) the international exhibit is in Houston until September 8, 2008, and then it moves to Seattle, Washington.

Geopalooza, wow, what can I say about this exhibit! Massive Amethyst exhibits taller than 6 foot, Citrine geodes that I could CRAWL into. There were several dozen sliced geodes with brilliant minerals. (Ask to see the photos at our next meeting.) It was awesome! The meteorites on display, with a docent to explain the different types from all over the world were just that world-class! **(By the way she is a member of the Houston Gem & Mineral club)** Of course our trip wouldn't be complete without a visit to the world-renowned Cullen Hall of Gems & Minerals. One new, or perhaps I should say open exhibit was the vault within the exhibit. Some beautiful jewelry pieces, my face print and where my breath hit the glass should still be there! **LOL**

Lastly at HMS (and at closing time) we enjoyed the 3D Grand Canyon IMAX movie (I think my feet really enjoyed it the most.) We took the Metro-Rail back to downtown, stopping at a quaint two story Mexican restaurant, and ate outside on the patio. Of course, Susan O., leaning over the railing, waving her kerchief (oh no that was really a table napkin) at a passing horse drawn carriage. We all took it back to our hotel enjoying the sights, sounds, and camaraderie of our driver, whom pointed out the beautiful buildings, theatres, and parks within Houston. It was a great time for everyone!

WE are hosting the Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club August 8th in Elkhart for Selenite. We are also trying to obtain permission to go into a quarry for petrified wood, then there is a location that the field trip chair found on Hwy 19 for some ocean fossils, and a sharks tooth or two. Two of the locations are FREE of brush, and trees. Information and handouts at the next meeting.

The End



EDITOR'S NOTE

The following was sent to me anonymously to be included in the newsletter. In the past two and a half years as your newsletter editor, I have really enjoyed the challenge of putting together an informative, yet interesting to as many members as possible, newsletter. Hopefully, I have succeeded to your satisfaction. You as a member are important in many ways to a club's success. As most of the members of this club don't get to, or are not able to attend the monthly meetings, this newsletter is your main avenue of finding out what is going on in the club. At times it does feel more like a job than being an enjoyable hobby to me, with getting everyone's necessary info in, and finding other articles to fill the remaining pages and yet not bore you to death. However, those that have encouraged and commended me on the job I am doing on the newsletter have really been appreciated. Also, the few who have been generous enough to contribute an article they have written or found, have really been a big help. Please, continue to do so in the future. Any and all contributions can be sent to my email address: rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com, or my home address which is listed on the back of the newsletter. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month. Thank you in advance for your help. SB

The Volcano, or Just Venting

There are things that need to be said, and the only way to reach everyone is to publish this in the newsletter. There have been some truly outstanding members that have done a great job. Jack Shull while being President (without the use of computer) timely sending typewriter written President's messages for our newsletter. Don Campbell has graciously provided us with programs month after month, without complaint. He asks from time to time if there is someone to present a program. I think at some point, he'd like to be a member to network with others and just enjoy a program or two. Then there is the field trip chair, do any of you realize how much work it takes to line up a place for us to go, get us maps, hotel accommodations, and places to eat? She has put a field trip together every month (without fail) and most times, there isn't any participation. She's gone as far as to network with other clubs for us to join them, and even though they are great distances, she provides members with names of those going so that there might be someone to carpool with. And lastly, but surely not last, is our Newsletter Editor. How many of you make a contribution? How many of you know how (at times) downright difficult it can be to get it researched, formatted, printed, stapled, addressed, and sent to us in a timely manner?

It takes a lot of effort, on every ones part to be a club. What's your part?

Anonymous contribution



**“Gold, Diamonds, and Other Stuff:
A Question and Answer Session
with Charles Kirkpatrick”**

Charles Kirkpatrick of Midas Manufacturing gave a question and answer session about many aspects of jewelry and its fabrication. Mr. Kirkpatrick has been in the business for 32 years and studied under Stanley Young who was a jeweler for Tiffany's. Midas makes all types of jewelry but specializes in doing platinum casting. Charles uses a 90/10 Platinum/Iridium alloy that is strong and supple when compared to other mixtures in the marketplace. The “Platinum Guild” in Europe (who knew such a thing existed?), has decreed that all items sold as platinum should be 95% pure. Mr. Kirkpatrick clearly disagrees and calls this ruling simple snobbery.

Gold is another metal that has several options for mixing. Eighteen karat gold is 75% gold. The remaining 25% are other metals selected to change the properties such as hardness and color. There has been a resurgence of rose gold for example; copper is the metal that gives it the distinctive color. White gold is created with 15-25% nickel. It may be attractive, but it's very hard and brittle making it difficult to set stones. Some people also have nickel allergies and find that this jewelry can give them a rash. Platinum is clearly the better choice.

In Charles' opinion, platinum is the best metal for setting stones. It has a property called “dead set,” meaning that it doesn't spring back into its old shape. You bend the metal once and it stays put. It IS hard to polish, but conversely that means that it keeps its shine for a long time.

Diamonds are another area of expertise for Mr. Kirkpatrick. He noted that a lot of diamonds are now coming out of Russia and they even have their own syndicate similar to De Beers. The US has a large number of diamond deposits in the Colorado and Wyoming area. It is actually the southern border of the same geologic formation that is yielding diamonds in Canada.

The most popular color of diamond is still white, followed by yellow and pink. There are also blue diamonds, like the famous Hope Diamond. A color and property that is very rare are found in “chameleon” diamonds that are photo chromic. These shift in color from a greenish yellow to a yellowish or olive green. It's theorized that their lattice structure was bent while forming in the kimberlite pipe, probably by the presence of uranium. The light slowly bleeds out of them when put into darkness. They are then exposed to light again and it takes a few minutes to go into a full shift of color. There are also diamonds that exhibit a thermo chromic property which means that they change color when they are heated up. The colors of diamond are due to traces of other minerals. Yellow is due to nitrogen, blue is from cobalt, red is due to cadmium, orange is from beryllium, and green is attributed to the presence of chromium.

Charles was next asked several questions about manufactured diamonds. A method using carbon vapor deposition developed by NASA has the best product. They can produce whites, pinks, and browns. Diamond wheels have gotten cheaper due to the abundance of colored synthetic diamond chips. The infamous process whereby pets or loved ones are turned into diamonds yields whitish, mottled stones.

One property of diamonds and gold that everyone is noticing is their surge in prices. Mr. Kirkpatrick attributes this simply to supply and demand. Chinese and Indian citizens are becoming wealthier. As they get more money they want the same luxury items that everyone else wants, including gold and diamonds. In the last year there has been nearly a doubling in price of high end/large diamonds. US baby boomers are also fueling the surge, seeking to upgrade small engagement rings with 3 to 5 carat whoppers. The US is still the number one consumer of diamonds. Europe is close behind, followed by Japan. A one carat flawless white diamond is now going for \$14,500.

We were all delighted by Mr. Kirkpatrick's talk. The question and answer format was a nice change from the usual presentation and gave everyone a chance to weigh in on the topic. Our thanks to Charles for coming out to the AGMS and sharing his expertise with us. Via Stone Chipper 06/08



A.F.M.S. News

The AFMS Endowment Fund was established so that the Federation would have available funds for special projects. Funds collected are invested and only the interest from them can be spent. One way to add to the principal is the annual drawing for prizes at the AFMS convention. This year's drawing at the convention in Humble, TX will be held on September 27th. Some of this year's prizes include a selenite plate on amethyst pipe, Brazilian amethyst cathedral, vial of Virginia Valley Opal, a London Blue CZ pendant in 14k gold, and a lone star cut faceted topaz. All the prizes can be seen in color at the AFMS web site at www.amfed.org. If you would like to buy a coupon or coupons to get entered in the drawing, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joyce Speed
4680 Wisteria St.
Dallas, TX, 75211

Include a check made out to "AFMS Endowment" for the number of entries you wish to buy. The cost is \$5 per coupon or \$20 for 5 coupons. You can also call her at 214-337-9446.

~Excerpt A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 05-06/08



S.C.F.M.S. News

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society (**HGMS**) is hosting the combined **AFMS/SCFMS annual show for 2008** from **September 26th – 28th**. There will be 40 dealers along with kids' activities. They will have jewelry making and gemstone cutting demonstrations, a fluorescent rock room, and the free identification of rocks, minerals, gemstones, and fossils. As an added bonus the **Texas Faceters' Guild** is having their symposium as a satellite show to be held at the Comfort Suites, Kingwood.

The show will be held at the Humble Civic Center. The hours are 9-6 Friday (Kids' Day), 9-6 Saturday, and 10-5 on Sunday. Prices are \$5 for adults (all three days), \$3 for students, teachers, or seniors, and children under 12 are free. The parking is also free. For more information on all aspects of the show, please visit the website at www.hgms.org or contact Shiara Trumble at shiara.trumble@sbcglobal.net or call 281-463-7954.

~S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter, 03-04/08

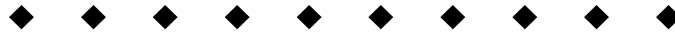




SHOP TIPS

Rock too big? Saturate a 1/2" rope with gasoline and tie it around the stone where you want the split to occur. Ignite the rope and wait until the brief hot flame dies away. Strike the stone several times with a sledge hammer, following the charred mark of the burned rope. The stone will fall cleanly apart where the rope has been bound.

~From Gem-N-I Newsletter 10-03, via Breccia 12/04, Shin-Skinners News 4/05, via 04-08 Stone Chipper



To remove clay and ferrous oxide from the surface of petrified wood, use MR. CLEAN. (Do not use oxalic acid as it darkens the specimen.)

~From Scott Shrader 2/24/98 on the Internet at shrader@scsn.net via rocks-and-fossils@world.std.com, via T-Town Rockhound 4/98, via Stone Chipper 03/08



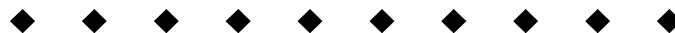
When polishing, do not use a saucer, dish, or pan and messy brush to apply the polish. Such methods invite contamination. Instead, use a plastic spray bottle. Put the polishing agent into the bottle, add water and a small stone, or buck shot. The purpose of the stone or buck shot is to agitate and stir up the polishing powder when you shake the bottle. Shake well and squirt the solution on the polishing pad or wheel. No more contamination, no waste of polishing agent, and the polishing agent may be applied exactly where you want it.

~original source not known, from Thunder Bay Gems, others, via The Backbenders Gazetteer, The Roadrunner 06/08; via Stone Chipper 07/08



The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have.

~Source not listed, Rain, The Rockytier, 06/08; via Stone Chipper 07/08



Clean out your tumbler!

For a 1-2 lb tumbler. Pour mixture of 1/4 C vinegar and 1-3/4 C water into barrel. Run 20-30 minutes. Rinse with clean water. Pour mixture of 1/4 C baking soda and 1 - 3/4 C water into barrel. Run 20-30 minutes. Rinse with clean water. The vinegar cleans the barrel (removes rust and residue). The soda mixture neutralizes the vinegar.

~by Susan Bannon, WGMS, in Quarry Quips, 02/08, via stone chipper 06/08



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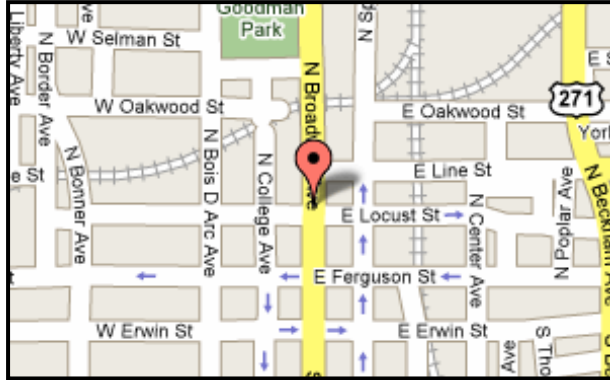
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER,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