



ROCK-N-ROSE



PAGE 1

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TYLER, TEXAS

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MARCH 2008

Coming Shows, 2008

APRIL 12
SWAP MEET IN AUSTIN, TX
Austin G & M Soc.
www.austingemandmineral.org

APRIL 12-13
ABILENE, TX
Central Texas G & M Society
Abilene Civic Center

APRIL 18-20
MARFA, TX
Chihuahuan Desert G & M
paulgraybeal@sbcglobal.net

APRIL 26-27
WACO, TX
Waco Gem & Min. Club
Heart of Texas Fairground

MAY 3-4
LUBBOCK, TX
Lubbock Gem & Min. Soc.
Lubbock Civic Center

FIELD TRIP INFO

Please, check out pages 3
and 4!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. Meeting minutes/program
3. Field trip information for the coming months
4. Cont'/A.F.M.S. News
5. Where do we go from here?
6. 'Where' Cont'
7. 'Where' Cont'/Classifieds
8. Officers and Directions

Rock Enthusiasts Share at Tobias Elementary!

Rock and mineral enthusiasts Paul and Margaret Good continue to share their knowledge and rock samples with our Tobias Explorers. They have a display case in the library which they change each six weeks. Recently, this dedicated team of volunteers spent time in Mrs. Buskness' first grade classroom answering many questions about rocks. They even left displays for the students to study in the room.

Being active members of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society for many years, the Goods encourage people to visit the web site, become a member, get involved, and learn more about rocks and minerals. This society even takes junior members while providing ongoing programs of fun and education.

After 37 years of providing displays in schools, libraries, museums, and universities, this pair are still excited to share their passion for collecting and learning about rocks.

Margaret Good also writes poetry. A copy of her book *Baker's Dozen of Birthstone Poems* is available in our Tobias library. You can also visit the Kyle Public Library to read Ms. Good's other poetry book *Wings of Flight*.

~From The Tobias Traveler, provided by Paul & Margaret Good.

The Goods added that they now have increased their displays to 10 schools in Hays County. They are providing set ups for six elementary, two intermediate, and two high schools. The total enrollment of the schools last year was 5,146. Since adding the two high schools, the total enrollment is 8,915.



MARCH MEETING MINUTES

On Monday, March 3, 2008 the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler. President Rip Criss called the meeting to order at 7:05. Keith Harmon made a motion to accept the minutes from last month as published in the newsletter. Bill Holbert 2nd and the motion passed. Laura Wilson reported on a field trip on April 12th to the Sulphur River with the Ft. Worth Club. Possible finds were discussed -- dinosaur bone, shark teeth, ammonites, etc. Laura also pointed out her samples she collected on the group's recent trip to the Jewett coal mine in February. 19 club members attended and were happy to collect some crystallized petrified wood coal pieces. Laura then gave details on the quartz crystal collecting trip to the Coleman mine in Arkansas coming up on March 15th. There will be a field trip the first week of June to Oklahoma to the museum and to collect barite roses. Then in September the club will participate in a 4-club mega field trip to San Saba. Don't miss the next meeting for details on our long range itinerary. Laura is putting a lot of research and effort into planning a variety of experiences for our club.

Don Campbell reported that the Dallas club will have a rock swap at the their shop on April 5th. He also recommended to everyone the Dallas Fine Mineral Show at the Embassy Suites on May 2nd - 4th. If there is interest we may arrange a club trip. There will be some fantastic mineral specimens on display. Prez Rip reminded everyone to not forget refreshments for the meetings and then introduced new members at the meeting. Welcome to Brenda Sinclair, the Masenburge family, and Robert Ortega.

Susan Burch asked for volunteers to help her with folding and stamping the newsletters to get them mailed out. Call her if you can help. Drawings for door prizes were held next, evoking lots of smiles, followed by a drawing for junior members only! Our appreciation to those who are faithful to donate items for door prizes and silent auctions.

After a break for refreshments and visiting, Don gave a very interesting report (with slides) on his stay at the Tucson show. Entertaining as well as informational, we got a free insider's look at what its like from a vendor point of view at the largest gem & mineral show in the United States. From bug magnets, to Bob's leisure habits, to the latest lapidary gossip, Don once again gave a great program. Thanks, Don!

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, club secretary.



APRIL MEETING PROGRAM

A preview of the April 12th Sulfer River field trip. A talk about the geology and fossils to be found there. Also as an added feature, there will be a presentation on how to locate collecting sites for rocks, minerals, and fossils, by utilizing geologic maps, and various books on geology.

That's it.

Donald C.



Hello everyone,

Mark your calendars, we have been invited March 29th to Cherokee to collect coral with drusy quartz, Along with the Dallas club, Kerrville Club & Fredericksburg club
Thanks to C. Townsend, San Antonio G & M

Peter Cornell, of the F.W. Gem & Mineral Club is graciously hosting us, and taking us to the Sulfur River April 12th. Close to Ladonia & Bug Tussle, Texas. No collecting fee, but we might want to carpool to defray expenses.

May is open.

June **we are hosting** Rose Rocks at Stanley Draper close to Oklahoma City. (Also Exit 51 & the fried pies.) ☺
Plus, those that journey with me, I'm splitting off, and going to the Red Earth Day Pow Wow in Ok City.

July & August is hot, but we have something in the works that hasn't been confirmed yet. But it has something to do with water, rocks, sunscreen, and relaxation.
(There is talk of Lake Arrowhead in Oklahoma with green quartz) ???????????

September 6-7 (Saturday & Sunday) we will go back as a group with another club to San Saba & Collect at Cherokee & the Lambert Ranch

October Date still tentative is the Tessman Ranch for florescent petrified wood (it's also a different color that we have been collecting).

November: Thought we might go to West Texas, past San Angelo & collect large Ammonites, and fossils

December is still in the planning stages.
We have another club that wants to host us in their location.

So much to do, so little time.....

I would like to ask, a really important question. What do you think about a 3-4 day trip (out of state) to collect?

Your feedback is very important.

Laura Wilson, field trip chair

PS. Just wanted to give you the heads up about September (yes I know that's a ways off) but I'm really into planning and wanted to give you Angie Burnham email @ www.burnhamslodging.com 325-248-3271

I have already made my reservation. I'm submitting it to our club now....



Page 3 continued...

A credit card will hold it, only. All the rooms are currently available now, and if you mention you are with **the rock club**, she will give **EVERYBODY** that checks in @ 10% discount for those 2 days. 😊

I talked to her at length about the area, Mill Pond, and the museum. She indicated that there was a creek close by that some “prospectors” were gold mining at. 😊 😊 Couple of WEEKS ago.....

Now, the only thing we have to do is obtain that information!

So let's see, we have the Kukendall ranch for coral with drusy and some fossil inclusions. \$5.00 collecting fee.

Then we have the Lambert Ranch for fossils. \$10.00 collecting fee.

Then perhaps this creek she was talking about.

Then exploratory evolutions on the way back. Maybe we can show you where the Turatella embankment is. (free) 😊 It's on our ways home.

Laura
Or Jane Bond....



A.F.M.S. News

“When you head out this spring on a field trip or any other type of outing that involves federal lands, don't be surprised to find roads blocked by gates or earthen structures and many parks, camp sites, and trails closed.” This warning from John Wright's column “Words of Caution,” is meant to grab your attention. Mr. Wright is the chair of the AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee whose job it is to alert amateur collectors of gems, minerals, and fossils to potential legislation that would adversely affect our ability to both legally and easily collect specimens related to our hobby. Increasingly, access to federally owned, public lands has been reduced and the legality of collecting fossils seems to be constantly in question. One way to approach the issue is to lobby Congress and write our representatives. If you wish to be kept up to date on issues affecting our hobby, you should consider joining a group called the American Lands Access Association at www.amlands.org, or the Blue Ribbon Coalition at www.sharetrails.org.

~Excerpt A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 03/08 via Stone Chipper 02/08



**Where Do We Go From Here?
Or, The Status and Direction of Mineral Collecting in Texas
By Alan Cherepon
AGMS Club Member, President**

You see the occasional editorial or letter in the journals bemoaning the fact that getting access to good collecting sites is becoming more difficult, government lands, both federal and local, are becoming increasingly prohibited to rockhounds.

Well, here's another one, with one exception; a proposed plan for reversing the trend. As our society ages, the population continues to grow, and urban sprawl becomes common place, you would expect some changes and difficulties related to our hobby. Add to this a smattering of those people who ignore common courtesy and property rights, as well as an epidemic of law suits for such frivolous reasons as their children's poor health because they ate too many burgers and fries instead of both parents and children taking responsibility for what they do.

People have become increasingly more cautious, especially when a group of strangers come rolling up to their doorstep and ask if they can go bang around on their property. Think about it. Would you be more responsive to a group who just show up one day seeking access to your property, or a group that takes the time to contact and educate you on who they are, what they do as a society, the benefits they are providing, and the way they are prepared to protect the landowner from a potential lawsuit by having waivers and an insurance policy in place? We also see it in the media that the press can create the illusion of nearly anyone being a saint or sinner. Some good, local press can go a long way in putting a positive picture in the minds of potential collecting area landowners. This may also require some PR work with local authorities, as well as school districts, to demonstrate the benefits of promoting rock hounding as an alternative to kids and adults doing less beneficial things with their time.

Many locals are not even aware of some of the natural wonders right below their feet. One trip comes to mind where our group was exploring the local volcanic features in Austin. I asked some young dudes who were passing through the creek bed if they knew what the dark green rocks they were walking on represented. They had no clue. When I told them this was rock from a lava flow from an ancient volcano they were reasonably impressed and slowed down long enough to take a look. When people become aware that there were once erupting volcanoes and dinosaurs roaming around in what is now their backyard, they suddenly become a little more excited and aware of their surroundings. Adults appear to be even more impressed, especially if they are involved in education or have children of their own that they can share this new information with. Even our own past president, Paul Bordovsky, who grew up in Karnes City and even worked temporarily in the nearby uranium mills, had no idea of the



incredible mineral specimens available in the old mines he lived so close to until he became involved with our own gem and mineral society in Austin.

So, what can we do as a society? Here is what I suggest. Just as Lynn Young planned and initiated the media blitz for our annual Gem Capers show, the AGMS (and all such societies) needs to plan and implement how to best position ourselves to increase our access to local mineral collecting areas. I believe this can best be accomplished by what I indicated above:

- Have a society insurance policy in place with the specifics available to all to read and use, (the AGMS has such a policy, through our affiliation with the SCFMS);
- Have a waiver of liability form readily available for all field trips that all attendees will sign; all landowners should have a blank copy sent to them when requesting permission (AGMS has such a form);
- Educate society members on proper collecting etiquette and the respect of private property (the AGMS should prepare a summary document to keep on file and to review each year as both a reminder to old members and information for new members who may have never considered what is right, what is legal, and how we should go beyond the letter of the law in an effort to build a good working reputation among landowners and local authorities);
- Develop a pamphlet/tri-fold that can be used to provide to schools, local authorities, and landowners that explains what our society is, does, our benefits to the community and science, and ways in which we protect the landowner from liability issues;
- Develop a plan and prioritize who to mail out these brochures to, and request an audience with specific people in school districts, local government, and the media, to allow us to educate them on what we are about, and how we benefit the community;
- Get media coverage, especially on local news stations, and especially for our annual show, or on a local field trip;
- Educate local and state quarry and mine owners/operators about our society in an effort to gain access to working properties that may have been off-limits for many years;
- Develop a plan and checklist of what process should be followed when contacting a land owner to request permission to collect on their property. Perhaps others reading this may have additional ideas and suggestions on how to improve this initial draft plan. I heartily invite your input to make this the best organized such plan thus far developed for our hobby,



and look forward to your input and assistance in developing and initiating such a plan, provided the society is in favor of such an approach. If we want favors from landowners, I think it is high time we put more effort into it instead of grumbling about how difficult it is to collect anymore.

Via Stone Chipper 01/08



CLASSIFIEDS

I was contacted by the family of a Mrs. Callaway from Buffalo, TX, about rocks she has been collecting for over 60 years. She has had a stroke and is in the hospital and the family is trying to sell her rocks for her. Her son is Barney Williams and lives in Whitehouse, Texas where the rocks are currently being kept. He can be contacted at 903-245-1750 by anyone who has an interest in looking at them. I do not know what the rocks are or anything about them.

I also spoke with Wayne Skelton about his rock hounding equipment. He is trying to sell all he has because he has come down with Lou Gehrigs disease and will have to be moving out of State to be near his son. He has a 12 " Lortone slab saw that was purchased new in 2005, a 10" Lortone saw that works well, a 6" trim saw, a three diamond wheel grinding unit and a grinding unit with an 80 grit wheel and polishing wheel. He also has a couple of dremel tools and some hand tools like pliers and such. He also has a couple of display cases and some rock pendants and some slabs. He wants to sell it all together and has a price of \$2600 for all of it. The equipment alone he wants \$2000 for. It would be a good buy for someone wanting to get started with some good equipment. His address is 902 Superior, White Oak, Texas and his phone number is 903-759-2067.

Keith Harmon



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Robert (Rip) Criss 903-922-2856
P.O. Box 4243
Palestine, TX 75802

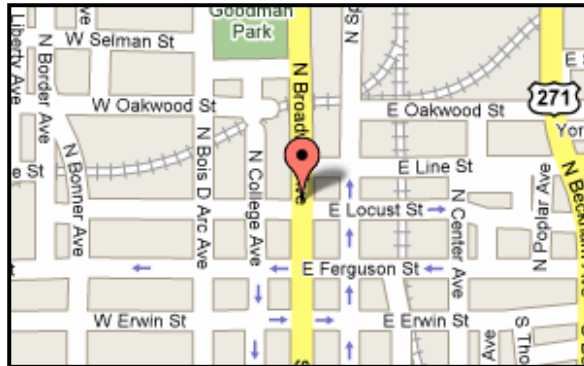
VICE PRESIDENT: Jon Laverty 903-295-8302
1611 Springdale ST.
Longview, TX 75604

TREASURER: Jeri Kitchens 903-245-8822
2533 Chelsea Dr.
Tyler, TX 75701

SECRETARY: Becky Whisenant 903-795-3652
Rt. 4 Box 77W
Rusk, TX 75785

**FIELD TRIP
CHAIRMAN:** Laura Wilson 903--894-6821
1337 CR 3402
Bullard, TX 75757

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



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.

EDITOR: Susan Burch 936-615-5397
20427 US. Hwy 69 S.
Alto, TX 75925

E-Mail: rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com