



# ROCK-N-ROSE



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TYLER, TEXAS

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MARCH 2007

## Coming Shows, 2007

March 23-25  
Ada Gem and Mineral Show  
Ada, OK

April 7-8  
Central Texas Gem and Mineral Show  
Abilene, TX

April 28-29  
Waco Gem & Min. Soc.  
Waco, TX

## **NEW MONTHLY FEATURE**

## FIELD TRIP INFO

April 27-28  
Trip to Llano, TX

Contact the Field Trip  
Chairperson for more details.  
Marilyn Austin  
903-595-6651  
maustinsxsw@hotmail.com

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## **President's Message**

**MEETING ROOM CHANGE!!!**  
Room 422 not 401

Anyone who has been to the last two Club meetings at the UT Tyler Library may have noticed we had some scheduling conflicts with other groups. We were delayed getting into the room in February while another group finished their business. In turn, we held up some folks also trying to use the room later that evening.

At the last meeting, a group of young men needed us to get out quickly so they could hold their meeting. Keith and I asked the Library what could be done to allow everyone time to complete their business. We were told that more and more University groups are using the Library facilities. As an off-campus group, we do not have priority in scheduling. Upon checking the Library schedule for 2007, we were told that our Club was to meet in the smaller room 422, not our usual room 401.

We were not aware of the scheduling change. Although no other group was scheduled for room 401 in March during our time slot, the room was given to another group when they had more people show up than expected. In a nutshell—we will now always meet in Room 422.

To find room 422, go up to the fourth floor as usual. Turn right once you exit the elevator and go through a set of doors. Once through the doors, turn left and you'll find us.

The UT Tyler Library has graciously let us use their facilities for no charge for many years. As the school continues to row, we will likely need to find an alternate location to meet. Keith has some ideas on a new location. If anyone else has a school, church, or public facility they fell may allow Ckub meetings, please forward their name, address and contact name and phone number to Keith or myself.

See you at the next meeting in Room 422!

Jon L. Laverty  
President



### APRIL MEETING PROGRAM

The April 2nd club meeting program will be a talk by Donald Campbell about the geology of the Llano uplift region of Texas. He will have slides to show and samples of the different igneous and metamorphic rocks of the area. The program is an introduction to the geology of the area that we will be going to on Saturday and Sunday April 28th & 29th as a club field trip.

### FOSSIL CLEANING CLASS:

Donald Campbell will be conducting a fossil cleaning class on Saturday April 7th at 8:00 am at his office/workshop in Tyler. The class will be limited to two people due to the limited space and equipment available. Donald will furnish fossil specimens (trilobites) for club members to practice on. Call Donald @ 903-520-4085 to reserve a spot.

### MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The Eat Texas Gem & Mineral Club met March 5, 2007, in the UT library building. President Jon Laverty called the meeting to order at 7:00. There were no new guests but we welcomed one renewing member, Mattie Coburn. Pete Keiser made a motion to accept last month's minutes as published, Keith Harmon 2nd & motioned passed. Colleen Hayes gave a treasurer's report. Under new business Keith commented on our show this year and boted the title assigned to Don Campbell in the publicity newspaper article. He presented Don with a special insulated cup-holder inscribed especially with his new title: "Village Idiot".

Marilyn Austin discussed the upcoming field trip to the Coleman crystal mine in Arkansas on March 17th. If we have 10 people the fee will be \$10/ea, less than that will be \$20/ea. Jack reported on the Elkhart selenite trip and displayed wonderful specimens. 5 people attended and a good time was had by all. Don announced the opportunity for a fossil cleaning class at his office on several Saturdays, the first to be held March 10th. He is also planning an informative geology field trip with possible collecting to the Llano uplift area on the last weekend in April. More details to follow. Gene Goar discussed a possible field trip for rose rocks of barium sulfate (barite) near Noble, Oklahoma. He has a landowner who will allow us to collect a 5 gal bucket for \$25. This trip may possibly be in early May. Marilyn also showed off a piece of salt crystal she and Bob collected from some generous people at the local museum in Grand Saline. She is hoping to plan a trip there in the future when a new mine opens up.

President Jon then discussed the swap box and urged members to donate fossils to include for trade with another club. He also mentioned the Earth Day activities at the Lakeview Methodist Center in Whitehouse on April 21st and asked for anyone interested in having a booth or exhibit from our club to contact him.

After door prize drawings and a break for refreshments, Don presented part II of his program on trilobites — location, collection and cleaning. Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, club secretary



## ELKHART, TEXAS FIELD TRIP

**If you woke up on Saturday, February 24 and looked outside, you most likely saw stormy skies. However, those of us to brave the weather and head out for the field trip scheduled to hunt Selenite were not disappointed. By 10:30-11:00 a.m. the skies had cleared for the most part leaving a slightly overcast, but in no way unpleasant day. Although most of us met at the site rather than before hand, a good time was had by all. No one went away empty handed, whether it was Darlene Graser who took the pictures included here, Rip with red moss agate and petrified wood (you have to see the absolutely cool tool that Rip has for fishing pieces from the stream bed, a real back saver) or Jack, Bob and I, who collected great specimens of the Selenite to be had at the road cut by Mack Creek. Now the three of us who were digging for Selenite had some interesting happenings, sometimes, even a little ingenuity was used at the dig, whether it was using a spatula, (me, who forgot their trowel and the dollar store did not have another) or several of us, using masking tape to hold the crystals in their natural form. For the most part Bob and I were only finding nice little crystal clusters almost anywhere we chose to dig. Jack on the other hand found large specimen after large specimen, and of course they were mostly the type that all stuck together without falling apart, so every time he would call out to let us know, we had to move closer to where he was digging. Naturally this led to lots of laughing and good natured ribbing. So next time the sky is storming and you think about missing the field trip planned for that morning, remember that this is Texas, and the weather changes with the drop of a cowboy hat.**

Top Left: Rip Criss and Carroll Graser on Mack Creek. Bottom Left: One of Jack's spectacular finds. Top Right: My one really big find that of course fell apart. Bottom Right: Bob's last minute double find.



## **The Many Facets of . . . 2007 Tucson Shows**

**Every February, mobs of rockhounds, gem dealers, paleontologists, Native Americans, geologists and just plain curious converge on Tucson, Arizona for the annual Gem & Mineral Show.**

**The colossal Tucson Mineral Show is by far the largest gem and mineral show on earth. It is not a single show or held at a single location. The Tucson Show consists of dozens of major independent shows held at various locations throughout the city. Some of the finest mineral specimens known to exist in the world are displayed at the show. Besides those for sale, there are displays by museums, noted collectors and dealers, and competitive displays from expert and beginning collectors, which many regard as the Show's highlight.**

**An estimated 45,000+ people from ore than 20 countries attend this event held in early February. More than 25 museums and universities from around the world, including the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Sorbonne in Paris bring special collections and displays to the show.**

**Lectures are presented by eminent curators, mineralogists and hobbyists on collecting, photography, mineralogy and other topics. The show also includes a Saturday night dinner and awards program for professional, amateur and junior competitive exhibitors, including the Paul Desautels Trophy for the finest crystallized mineral specimens; the Lidstrom Memorial Trophy for the best single specimen; and the Neal Yedlin Memorial Trophy for the best micromount display.**

**Meanwhile, in parking lots, motel rooms, lobbies, lawns, tents, vacant**



**Cont' from page 4.**

**Lots and RVs, throughout the city tens-of-thousands of locals and out-of-towners gather at the satellite events searching for retail and wholesale gems, mineral, jewelry, American Indian design, fossils, dinosaurs, rare books, tools and any items possibly associated with the gem, mineral and fossils trade.**

**For retail dealers of gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry and crafts throughout the western US, Tucson is THE place to be in February. This is where most of these dealers re-stock their inventories for the coming year.**

**If you're interested in attending the Annual Tucson Gem & Mineral show, be aware that lodging is difficult to come by unless it is booked many months in advance. Nearby Saguaro National park has no camping facilities, but Catalina and Picacho Peak State parks North of Tucson offer camping with RV hookups at reasonable rates. There are hotels and motels in Tucson, with something for every taste and price range.**

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**FYI: Hopefully this article will inspire you to plan a visit for next year. To find more great articles about the desert and also some with relevance to our hobby, (as I am not able to get permission to use all that do) Please visit an overall wonderfully informative and enjoyable site, [desertusa.com](http://desertusa.com)**



### **Wire Wrap a Cab**

**Cabochons come in many shapes and are made from a variety of stones such as hematite, aventurine, and agate. Though there are many ways to wrap cabs with wire, I find this method works well for me. If you've never tried to wrap a cab before, I recommend that you start with a fairly large cab. The larger the cab, the easier it is to handle. Of course, the larger the cab, the more wire you'll need.**

**Here are the supplies/equipment you'll need:**

**Your choice of size and type of cabochon**

**\*\*Clamps**

**Approx. 1ft. 24 gauge half-round gold-filled wire**

**Bent nosed pliers**

**Wire cutters**

**Round nosed pliers**

**\*22 gauge dead soft square gold-filled wire or 20 gage dead soft square gold-filled wire**

**Continued on page 6**



Continued from page 5.

Twisting tool  
Marker  
Ruler

Masking tape  
Soft cloth

\*Some people recommend using 20 gauge vs. 22 gauge square wire. However, 20 gauge is much stronger and harder. So if you've got whimpy hands (like me) then try using 22 gauge.

\*\*For clamps, you can also use those black binder clips available at office supply stores which are used for binding papers together. Just make sure you cover the inside of the binder clips with a soft cloth or something so you don't scratch up your wire.

1. Take masking tape and wrap it around the edge of the cab. Then carefully unwrap it from the cab and place it along side a ruler. To determine the length of square wire to use, add four inches to the length of the tape. For the cab I did in this example, my length was 7 1/2 inches.
- 2.





### CLUB OFFICERS

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### NOTE TO EDITORS

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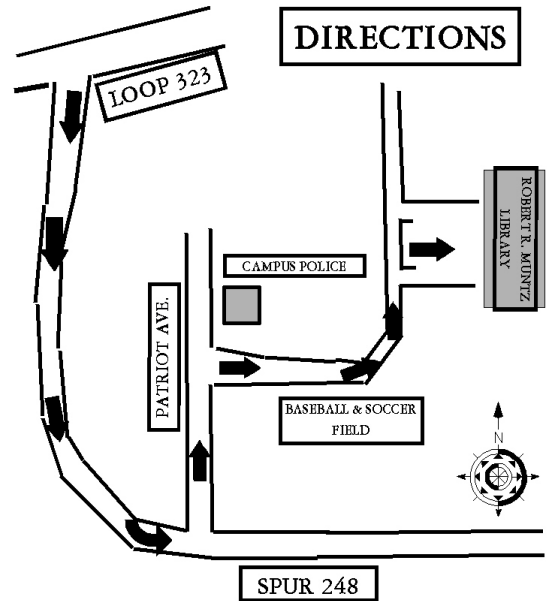
#### Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

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.**



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Editor's Note: If you missed your newsletter last month this is why. For several months I had been having computer problems, and finally last month my PC crashed. This resulted in the loss of all Club files and programs. While I was acquiring another copy of some of the programs and getting another computer up and running, Laura Wilson was kind enough to take up the slack and put out a newsletter last month. She did not have an address list to send out copies so the only way you would have gotten one was to come to the show or this month's meeting. Now, I've got everything up and going again, so please, enjoy!