



ROCK -N- ROSE



PAGE 1

VOLUME 33

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 5

MAY 2007

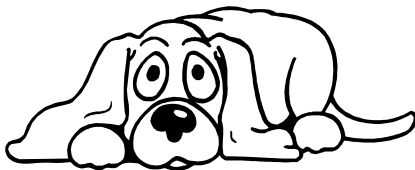
Coming Shows, 2007

JUNE 07-10
AMERICAN & ROCKY
MOUNTAIN FEDERATION
Roswell, New Mexico
Chaparral Rockhounds

JUNE 15-17
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION
Lancaster, California
Palmdale Gem & Min. Soc.

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Sorry guys, no field trips are planned for the month of June.



INSIDE

2. May Meeting Minutes
3. Minutes Cont. / June Program
4. Llano Field Trip Highlights
5. Llano Trip Cont.
6. The Age of Dinosaurs
7. Poem / Shop Tips
8. Officers and Directions

President's Message

Let's Get Organized for the Kids!

We are fortunate to have Club members from all over the East Texas area. Our meetings allow us to get together from distant points to discuss and learn about our favorite hobby. However, the big distances between us can also be a disadvantage when we need to work on a project since it is so difficult to get together outside our monthly meetings.

For example, we have been talking about developing a Kid's Program to teach youngsters about rocks, minerals, geology, fossils, etc. We even have two volunteers to lead a Kid's Program committee – Becky Whisenant and Gene Goar. Others have indicated they would help with the program. At our last monthly meeting I realized that it is very difficult for Becky and Gene to get a committee going due to the fact we live all over the region from Tyler to Rusk, Longview, Alto, Palestine, Chandler, Winnsboro, Whitehouse, and so on. So, in order to move this project forward, I will schedule some time at our June meeting to discuss the Kid's Program.

Since June is our annual Show and Tell meeting we'll keep the Kid's Program time short. However, I would like to outline the steps we need to take to develop the Kid's Program. Let's ask all the questions and work on answers between monthly meetings. We can use a little time from future meetings to allow Becky and Gene coordinate what needs done, assign tasks, and discuss options.

There really is a lot to discuss to get a Kid's Program. What age groups do we invite? Do we solicit the schools or do we have members bring a few kids to the Program? What is the content of the Program? Gene has volunteered to do dinos and fossils! Do we have room to do the Program in our small room? When do we have the program?

You get the idea. Let's list our questions at the next meeting and then help Becky and Gene find answers.

As I mentioned, June is Show and Tell. Bring a hobby related item of interest and briefly describe it to our group. You can bring a new mineral find, even if you 'found' it at a mineral show. Maybe you have polished some fabulous slabs or made some gorgeous jewelry. You are not required to bring an item, but if you have a unique piece, please bring it!

Remember, we meet in room 422 now!

See you at the next meeting – June 4th at 6:45 pm.

Jon L. Laverty
President



May Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Jon Laverty at 6:44 p.m. on Monday May 7, 2007 in room 422 of the UT – Tyler Library. A short discussion of the parking problems was led by Jon. The search for a new location for meetings is being conducted and Jon asked for anyone with any ideas to please share them with him or Keith Harmon via email, if possible. It was noted that parking will be a lot better in June, July and August with the summer bringing less of a demand on available parking spaces.

Guests were recognized as Weldon and Taylor Gillespie from Longview, also Darlene from North Carolina. Ricky Williams from Jewett. Pam Carpenter was hosted by Billy and Jo Gay. Tena Watson attended as a guest but joined during the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes of the April 2, 2007 meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Gene Goar and seconded by Colleen Hayes. Colleen gave the treasurer's report and noted that the \$100 donation was made to the American Federation Scholarship Foundation per motion made at the April meeting.

Jack Shull spoke about the club trip April 28 & 29 to the Llano Uplift. Jack had hand-outs from Don to share with club members about the trip. Jack said Don was a great trip planner who had gone to Llano several weeks before to scout out the area, plan the stops and had information on what would be found at each location. He said there was a large group on Saturday, going to 9 places to gather specimens; some of the members had to leave but a smaller group went to another 9 sites on Sunday. Don had checked out a total of 22 sites but had chosen the 18 best for the tour. Jack led a discussion of the rocks that were gathered by various members. Gene said that the trip was great and Don had really done a lot of hard work to make it a success. He said that Don was due a round of applause which was done for Don in absentia. (That is one of the reasons he is our 'Rockhound of the Year') There was a granite factory with large slabs of granite on display outside where visitors could examine them and read descriptions, Gene was generous in sharing some of the "scraps" he picked up.

Jack said that since Marilyn was not at the meeting he could not confirm details on any up-coming field trips but that one trip in the planning stage is a short one to Love's Lookout on Hwy 69 to look for shark's teeth. Date of that trip will be announced, as that information was not available from Marilyn at this time. Gene said he is still working on a trip to gather barite rose in OK; his first choice for locations has fallen thru but he has other places. That trip will be planned for late in the Fall when it is cooler in OK. Jon had information on a large agate hunting trip called Agate 2007 which includes a 10 day camp out. The hand out was brought in by Laura Wilson. Information on this New Mexico trip can be found at www.chaparralrockhounds.com.

Jon asked if there was any old business and there being none, the meeting moved along to a discussion of next month's meeting when the topic will be "Show and Tell" by the members. The members were asked to think about rocks they would like to bring and present a short program about. A time limit of 10 minutes for each presentation should be observed so that more folks can show their displays or presentations.

Gene led a short discussion about the proposed youth program and said he would volunteer to do the first program since he already goes to schools with a demonstration about fossils and dinosaurs. A target age group for the youth was discussed and generally agreed that junior high and under kids would be the most interested in what our club has to offer. It was agreed that the program should wait until Fall due to the difficulty of reaching the kids during summer months. Gene said that Becky is in charge of the youth program committee. A drawing for door prizes was held and Jon advised everyone to hold onto their tickets until after the program when a winning ticket would be chosen for a choice of the amethyst pendant Nancy would be making.. When that drawing was held, Gene won.

Nancy Laverty, wife of club president, Jon gave a marvelous demonstration of wire wrapping. She had a sample board of different gauges and types of wire that can be used in the craft. She showed how each loop of wire was fixed around the stone and demonstrated different techniques for holding the setting in

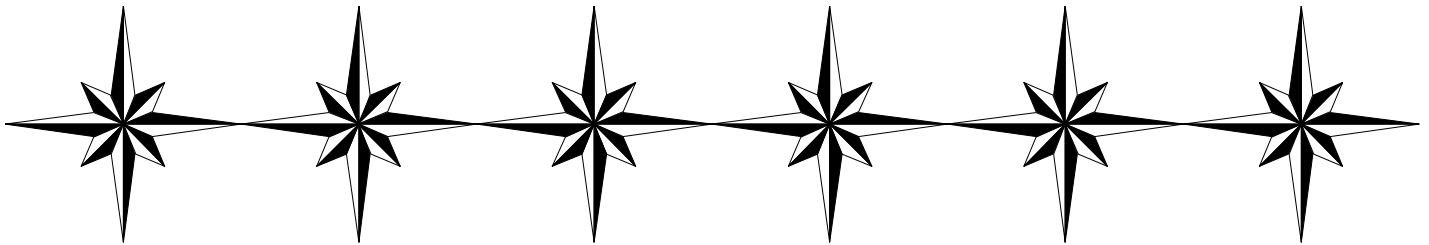


Meeting Minutes Continued:

place. She answered questions and gave details about each step in the process. Jon passed around a catalog of a good vendor of wire and supplies for wire wrap projects. Along with two illustrative books on the craft, Nancy had several sheets outlining the projects she would be doing for the group and more information on good vendors. Members in the audience offered information about local beading shops that also sell some wrapping supplies. The finished pendants were passed around for inspection. Nancy also had a display board of some of her other projects to show how different items can be wire wrapped and an album of pictures of some of her work. Altogether, she gave an informative, interesting, eye-catching program that made the spectators want to run right out and try this craft.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. by the President.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins for Becky Whisenant, Secretary



MEETING PROGRAMS AND CLASSES

Our June 4th club meeting program will be show and tell night. Club members who are interested, are asked to bring something to show club members and tell us all about it. Or tell us about an interesting collecting experience you have had , or something you have learned recently related to our hobby. We ask that you limit your presentation to 5-10 minutes. If you need longer, we will sign you up to do a whole program for the club at a later date. Hint, Hint.

Reminder, that our Rockhound of the Year, Donald Campbell will be conducting fossil cleaning classes. Those interested need to call Donald at 903-520-4085. The class will be limited to two people.



Llano Field Trip April 28-29, 2007

A 7-car caravan of East Texas rockhounds snaked through the hill country recently, going home several pounds heavier (with rock!) and some good memories. I cannot quote the officially stated purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society but I feel sure that goal was achieved on this particular trip. Carefully planned stops with accompanying geologic information on each site yielded cherished specimens

collected with friends on a beautiful day midst colorful hill country flowers. Don, The Man, led us not astray, but on an adventure where thirteen members joined in picking up and packing up town mountain granite, very nice gneiss, hematitic sandstone, wonderful surreptitiously-collected serpentine, amphibolite, salvaged marble scraps and, of course, llanite! Now we all understand why a good hat and a blade chisel are essential tools and that bringing food to share makes lunch fun. It was an exhausting but exciting two days of successful rock-hounding.———Becky Whisenant



—Don christening his new hammer—

Now the Rest of the Story

The second day of our geology field trip in the Llano, Texas area started early with a drive to the scenic overlook at Hoover's Point just south of Kingsland. Hoover's point is one of the most beautiful spots in central Texas overlooking Lake LBJ. It alone is worth a stop. But we were there to look at the huge road cut comprised of Cambrian rocks of which the large hill is composed. The Cambrian rocks are approx. 550 million years old.

The main item of interest at Hoover's Point is the bright grass green to blue green glauconitic sandstone. The mineral glauconite gives the sandstone both its green coloration and name. Also incased in the layers of green sandstone are small lenses of trilobite coquina limestone. Coquina is a term used to describe a limestone made up of broken fossil shell fragments. Club members were able to pick up arm loads of each type of material, and dodging a few speeding cars and trucks made our way safely back across the busy highway.

Our next stop was a few miles northwest of Kingsland on the back side of Packsaddle Mountain on Highway 71. We stopped at a road cut just north of the Honey creek crossing and looked at the metamorphic Packsaddle schist. There we collected hornblende and graphite schist. Cutting through the schist layers is a small pegmatite dike, and club members collected some pieces of quartz and feldspar. The packsaddle schist was originally marine sedimentary rocks which have been metamorphosed into schist. The Precambrian Packsaddle schist is approx. 1.25 billion years old, and is the second oldest rock formation found in the Llano uplift area.

The third stop of the day was a few miles south of the Hwy 71 side on a dirt county road where we collected micro sized crystals of tourmaline and hornblende. We also found larger pieces of massive hornblende. The micro tourmaline and hornblende crystals occur in the contact between small thin quartz veins which run through the surrounding shiny light golden colored mica schist. The mica schist is a part of the Packsaddle schist. Jack Shull and I have been examining our micro specimens under microscopes since we returned from Llano, and have discovered small wine colored garnets occurring with the tourmaline and hornblende in the mica schist. So if you went on the trip and collected some of the



Llano Trip Continued:



—Rockhounding at it's best—

material, you may want to re-examine your specimens through a hand lens looking for small garnets.

At the next couple of sites we collected actinolite schist from a road site county rock pit. The actinolite schist is light green in coloration and quite shiny. Next we collected quartzite/leptite, which is a feldspar rich metamorphic sandstone. This we found at the Sandy creek crossing a few miles south of the abandoned community of Click. Further down the road, we collected more metamorphic rocks like orthoamphibolite which is metamorphic gabbro/basalt. The orthoamphibolite is dark green with white splatches and polishes into a pretty stone. It is composed of hornblende and plagioclase feldspar. Next, just on the edge of Click, we collected soft black graphite schist in the road bed. The county used the graphite schist as road material. All of the rocks we

collected in this general area were from the Packsaddle schist formation. After collecting in Click, we made our way north to a country cemetery to have lunch. No, we didn't eat in the cemetery, nor did we collect rocks in the cemetery. There was a nice spot outside of the cemetery with grass and trees to sit under and enjoy our lunch and listen to Marilyn Austin and Gene Goar banter back and forth to our amazement and amusement. After lunch we made our way to the last stop of the day where we collected some mica schist, and marble. Before we left the spot, I made my way off into the brush to take

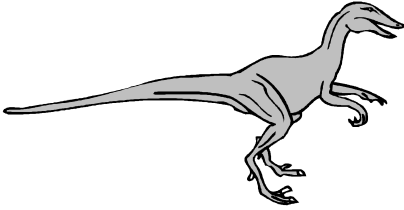
care of some personal business and upon completion of that task, making my way back to the truck I tripped over a chunk of Llanite. What!!! Llanite approx. 25 miles from where we had collected Llanite the day before. Who knows?

At that point we headed home with a truck full of rock, and wondering who threw that chunk of Llanite out into the brush.

—Don Campbell

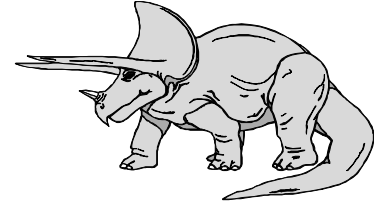


—Follow, follow, follow, follow, Follow the pink granite road—



The Age of Dinosaurs

By J.W. Downs
AGMS Club Member



All of us have dreamed of finding and using a time-machine that would enable us to go back to one of the many “Golden Ages” of the past. We would like to view in real time such things as ancient Greece around 400 B.C., Rome during the reign of Julius Caesar, the Renaissance in Italy, or the Age of Enlightenment so that we could match wits with Voltaire. This would be nice, assuming that language was not a problem. Most of those golden ages occupied a relatively short time period, frequently only a generation or two. If we set our time machine to take us back to the age of the dinosaurs, there would be a problem. Dinosaurs lived during the three geological periods of the Mesozoic Era that lasted more than 185 million years, nearly three times the amount of time since they became extinct. Many species of dinosaurs evolved, flourished, declined and became extinct long before the end of the age of dinosaurs, leaving little or no fossil evidence of ever having lived. of the movie **One Million B.C.** have been made in which dinosaurs, already extinct for more than sixty four million years, did battle with humans. In the movie **Jurassic Park**, DNA was extracted from mosquitoes that had bitten dinosaurs and had immediately become entrapped in amber millions of years ago. Michael Crichton’s source of amber didn’t come close to being old enough to contain dinosaur DNA. (The dinosaurs shown in that movie were mostly Cretaceous. If they were really from the Jurassic period we would have to go back another eighty million years!) To put this into a more understandable perspective, we shall engage the services of a number of standard meter sticks. Each meter stick is divided into ten decimeters, one hundred centimeters and one thousand millimeters. Using the scale of one thousand years per millimeter, each meter stick will We tend to collapse our concept of time and to lump things in two categories: Historic and Prehistoric. We know that dinosaurs and “cave men” existed a long time ago and see nothing wrong in science fiction with having them chasing each other. Two versions represent one million years. At this scale, Christianity would be represented by the first two millimeters, or slightly over one sixteenth of an inch. Alexander the Great would appear at three and one third millimeters, or nearly one eighth of an inch, and Egyptian civilization would be placed at five to six millimeters, or less than a quarter inch. The end of the last ice age and the extinction of the Woolly Mammoths would be placed at one centimeter, or three eighths of an inch. The people who drew the caves drawings at Altamira, Spain, thirty five thousand years ago, would appear at three and a half centimeters down our scale, or at one and three eighths inches. Three more meter sticks would have to be laid end-to-end to show Lucy, the oldest complete skeletal remains of a human ancestor, at three and a half million years. Lucy would be marked at three and a half meters.

To arrive at the end of the Age of Dinosaurs, we would have to lay out a total of sixty six meter sticks in a line and place a mark at sixty five and one half meters. From our present position on this scale, that point would be placed at two hundred fifteen feet, or about two thirds of the length of a football field. Remember that this marks the end of the Mesozoic era. To include the entire era ruled by reptiles we would have to set out 185 more meter sticks end-to-end. This means that untold numbers of species of these dinosaurs evolved and became extinct without the opportunity of meeting (and eating) their relatives since, in reality, they were displaced in time by millions of year. We might note here that the fearsome *Tyrannosaurus rex* has used the past 65+ million years to evolve into birds, including the modern chicken. How the mighty have fallen! Since we have quite a few meter sticks left over, we should use them to continue to show some other milestones in Earth’s history. By adding 291 more meter sticks end-to-end, we can show the Paleozoic Era. This will bring the total to 542 meters. We can mark the rise and fall of trilobites, and the rise of sharks and cockroaches which are still with us, extending the length to equal six football fields. To go back to the time that the Earth was formed we would have to set out 4,600 meter sticks, extending nearly three miles (if we haven’t already exhausted our supply of meter sticks.) It would require 13,700 meter sticks (8.5 miles) to take us back to the Big Bang. It is quite all right to enjoy Barney, the benign *Tyrannosaurus rex*, if we keep in mind that the only thing that keeps him from devouring his young admirers is the gulf of at least a hundred million years between them. Also, the **Flintstones** can be very entertaining with their shell telephones, carved stone television sets, woolly mammoth vacuum cleaners, and their small pet dinosaur, Dino. Just remember that the people who prepare these episodes are comedy writers and not paleontologists



Heading To a Show

By Margaret Good
AGMS Club Member

Soon we will go west to New Mexico,
To look at displays and see a great show.
We'll meet many rockhounds we already know.
They'll be really happy with faces aglow.
Paul made a display of things we have found,
In the Land of Enchantment, some on the ground;
In mines, creek bottoms, mountains, places profound;
Kept for displaying as we show them around.
The trip will be eventful, just wait and see,
For days will be sunny; fun it will be;
Comparing our finds, many others and we;
Thus learning to share, fills our lives with glee.

SHOP TIPS

If you plan to collect in an area where poison ivy is known to occur, take along a spray bottle filled with Windex®. Before you enter (walk in) the area, spray your clothing and any bare skin. When you're through, and before entering your vehicle, re-spray yourself and clothing. Donnie says it works; it seems to dry out the ivy oils which are so toxic to many people.

*~Courtesy of Donnie Heffley From Sooner Rockologist
02/02, via Post Rock 04/02, Shin-Skinner News 06/05*



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Jon Laverty 903-295-8302
1611 Springdale ST.

Longview, TX 75604

VICE PRESIDENT: Pete Keiser 903-984-2004
300 Thompson DR.

Kilgore, TX 75662

TREASURER: Colleen Hayes 903-839-2716
19849 Highland
Whitehouse, TX 75791

SECRETARY: Becky Whisenant 903-795-3652

NOTE TO EDITORS

Feel free to use contents and graphics for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.

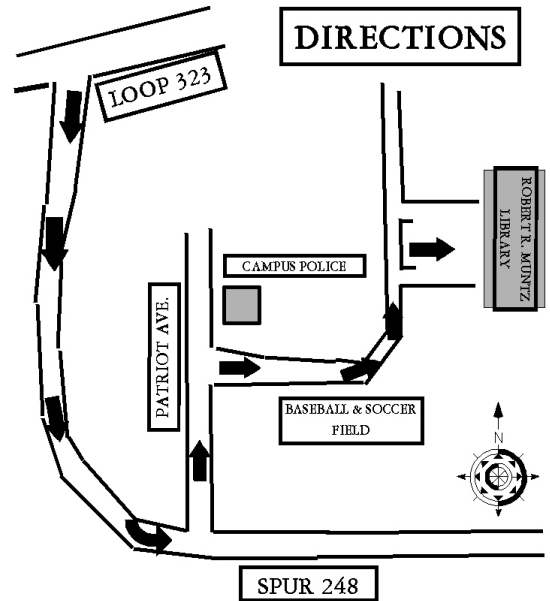
Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

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.

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT MONDAY IS A HOLIDAY, IN WHICH THE MEETING IS THEN HELD ON THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET ON THE FOURTH FLOOR IN ROOM 422 OF THE UT LIBRARY. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.



EDITOR: Susan Burch 936-615-5397
Rt. 1 Box 996
Alto, TX 75925

E-Mail: rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com