



ROCK -N- ROSE



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VOLUME 34

TYLER, TEXAS

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Coming Shows

DECEMBER 5-7, 2008

EL PASO, TX

El Paso Mineral & Gem Society
El Maida Auditorium

JANUARY 17-18 2009

FREDERICKSBURG, TX

Fredericksburg Rockhounds
Ladybird Park

JANUARY 24-25, 2009

TYLER, TX

East Texas Gem & Min. Soc.
Rose Garden Center

JANUARY 31- FEB. 14, 2009

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show
Martin Zinn Expositions
The InnSuites Hotel and The Mineral
& Fossil Marketplace



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NOTE TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS

As the end of the year approaches, our Treasurer is putting together an updated Active members list for the club. This is so your newsletter and other information can be sent to you in a timely manner. When we don't have the correct information, the Postal service sends the newsletters back to me, the Editor.

This costs the club time and money. Also, having an updated e-mail and phone list allows the club to contact you in the case of spur of the moment field trips, questions about your membership and so on. Member, Pete Keiser, has kindly offered to aid our Treasurer, Jeri Kitchens, in the coordination of this data.

Please, call, e-mail or snail-mail your updated information to Pete. Please do this ASAP, as we need the list completed by the end of the year. This would also include updating your membership dues if you have not already done so. Thank you.

Pete's contact info:

Pete Keiser

300 Thompson St.

Kilgore, TX 75662

903-984-2004

petekei@netscape.com

President's message was not available at the time of printing.



DECEMBER 1ST. MEETING PROGRAM

Our December 1st club meeting program will be our annual Christmas gift exchange party. We are asking all club members to bring to the meeting one wrapped gift for exchange. We ask that the festively wrapped gifts be an item related to our hobby, such as; rocks, mineral specimens, fossils, hobby related books, jewelry, lapidary supplies, & materials, hobby related equipment and tools. We will do a Chinese gift exchange where we unwrap gifts and keep them or take them away from each other. Everyone will go home with a gift. Also remember to bring your favorite holiday snack to share with the club. We always like to have a bunch off goodies to snack on while we do the gift exchange.

Donald C.



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met Monday, November 3, 2008. President Rip Criss called the meeting to order at 7:00. He welcomed guest Marissa, Susan O's granddaughter. Gene Goar made the motion to accept the minutes as published, 2nd by Jack Schull, and motion passed. There was no official treasurer's report but Rip reported that we raised \$1,052 on the auction at October's meeting. There was no old business. Rip urged everyone to consider accepting the position of field trip chair for next year as it will be vacant in January. Don discussed the possibility of taking small groups next year up to the trilobite quarry in OK. He has a sign-up sheet available if you are interested. He and Bob have been making new molds and will be mapping the quarry next spring.

Laura reported on her trip to the King Tut exhibition at the Fort Worth Museum which included some very intricate and beautiful stone carvings. She recommended it highly.

Under new business, Don revealed the club's newest and much-needed purchase: a digital projector for the club. The club took in \$1,052 in the auction and the projector cost \$1,051. Who said only women are good shoppers?? Good job, Don. The projector will greatly expand our program possibilities and, hopefully, participation. Don also reminded us that next meeting will be the Christmas gift exchange.

Pete urged everyone to get their current e-mail address to him (or Jerri) for an updated directory. See info elsewhere in the newsletter. Keith has begun preparation for the '09 show and urged everyone to begin signing up for spots to work. We need everyone to work as much as they can, including Friday, setup day. We may possibly try to get an attendee e-mail list for future show promo e-mailings. Dates for the show are Jan 24th & 25th, with setup the 23rd. There will also be a workday on a Saturday in January at Don's shop a couple weeks before to organize booths, silent auction items, etc. Members interested in exhibiting their treasures in a display case should reserve one NOW!!

President Criss announced area shows coming up: DeRidder and Mesquite. Then door prizes were drawn with lucky recipients being Marissa, Darlene, Tom, Cindy Bailey (Darlene's daughter), Gene and Marissa (AGAIN!)

After a short break for refreshments Don presented a program on one of a new series of geology DVD's on the NEW PROJECTOR!! It was VERY interesting and chock full of information. This first presentation was "The Nature of Earth: An Introduction to Geology", lecture #4 on Plate Tectonics. Love that stuff! Don't miss the next installment.

Meeting adjourned 8:45.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, club secretary.



Gemstone of the Month Apatite

By
Les Connally

Most people think of Apatite as a sensory perception driven by hunger or a response to an aroma in the kitchen. This apatite is a mineral of which a few lapidaries may be aware of. My first introduction to apatite was back in 1965 while on a trip in the interior of Mexico. We were on a buying trip for minerals and gemstone rough. A particular dealer brought out a shoe box of Golden Apatite crystals of various sizes. The crystals were well formed and for the most part were eye clear. This appeared to be good facet material so I purchased a parcel in anticipation of doing some faceting in the future. Little did I know that it would be some 32 years before I started to facet gemstones. One of the early stones that I did facet was a 10 mm golden apatite from that batch. The stone worked out very well.

So much for all that; lets look into the nature of this material. Apatite comes in a variety of colors – brown, green, gray, yellow, red, blue, purple, and white. It seems that most of the material showing up on the market is either golden yellow or blue, but mostly blue.

Golden Apatite
Photo by Les Connally



Other Properties:

Crystal structure- Hexagonal Bipyramidal

Cleavage - imperfect basal

Fracture – conchoidal

Hardness - 5 on the Mohs scale.

Sp. Gr. – 3.1-3.2

Luster – Vitreous to Greasy

Refractive Index – 1.641-1.649

Chemically it is a Calcium Fluorophosphate or Calcium Chlorophosphate with the Fluorophosphate being the more common.

$\text{Ca}_2\text{F}(\text{PO}_4)_3$.

Occurrences are wide spread across the world and domestic deposits are in Jefferson county New York, Chester county Pennsylvania, Franklin, New Jersey, and Auburn, Maine.

Apatite is commonly associated with calcite, cassiterite, quartz, fluorite, wolframite, and magnetite.¹

Mineralogy, by Kraus, Hunt, and Ramsdell
McGraw-Hill Book Company., Fourth edition, 1951,
pp.339-340.



QUARTZITE, AZ

One of the biggest, if not the largest Gem & Mineral show in the United States, Quartzite, AZ's annual show and other activities are coming up fast. So, if you plan to go this next year, now is the time to make your hotel, motel, RV, or camping arrangements. Don't wait till the last minute, unless you like being stuck out in the desert.

Schedule of Events:

January 1 - February 28, 2009 **Desert Gardens - Annual International Gem & Mineral Show**

January 2 - January 11, 2009 **Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show**

January 10 - January 25, 2009 **Main Event**



Mind Your Manners

By John Mastin,
Editor of *Chaparral Chatter* 3/84

Be mannerly and Perlite. Look Gneiss.

To eat Pyrite, use your fork.

Don't let your Apatite for things that come in Quartz show.

Don't try to be as Tufa or hard as Flint.

If you must be a Wulfinite, go find yourself a Ruby.

And don't Gypsum poor fellow out of his Opal.

Willemite but Jasper never would.

Shist remember, keep swimming or you'll Zinc.

*~Via The Rocky Mountain Digest 6/84, The
Rockhound Gazette 10/08, Beehive Buzzer 10/08;
via Stone Chipper 11/08*



AFMS News



The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (Senate version S320 and House version HR554) is a bill that rock and fossil collecting enthusiasts should be paying attention to. In the opinion of the American Lands Access Association and as reported in the AFMS newsletter, it is poorly written and so broad in scope as to create potential problems for all collectors. It is written to try and curtail the public's access to public lands for the purposes of collecting fossils, specifically vertebrate fossils. This would include items such as sharks' teeth. The penalties are severe and similar to those devised for drug crimes such as the impounding of one's vehicle. In any such situations, the burden of proof will be on the presumed violator – the officials are not required to be experts in paleontology or rocks. This translates to attorney's fees and such. There is a grandfather clause exempting items collected prior to the passage of the bill. One does still have the burden of proof to document where and when each of these belongings was collected. This could potentially create problems for many people who have no labels at all on their collections, let alone ones that may meet the proposed criteria for proof. It behooves us all to stay informed about potential and current laws regarding our hobby lest we ignorantly violate existing rules or blindly let other laws get passed without public input.

There is a public, non-partisan website which tracks bills. If you would like to do your own reading of and interpretation of the bill, you can find it in brief or in full at:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-554>

According to this website, the House Committee on Judiciary granted an extension on October 3rd "for further consideration not later than Jan 3 2009." There are also some interesting letters from professionals commenting on this bill on the ALAA website at:

<http://amlands.org>.

~excerpted and synopsised from AFMS Newsletter, Feb 2008 and others by Laura Dow, co-editor, via Stone Chipper 11/08



The daughter of a former member has contacted the club wanting to sell jade rough her parents collected 40 years ago. She does not want a lot of people coming by to pick one or two pieces. she would like to sell all to one person.

I went by today to look at the jade. I estimate she has 800 to 1000 lbs. of green, snowflake, pink and black Wyoming jade. Most is in about 4 lb. chunks but one or two are about 100 lbs.

She has no idea how much she wants for the rough. I told her she would get about a fourth of the retail value.

I found a web site thegemshop.com that has rough for sale. Under Wyoming Jade are two pictures that are very much like what she has.

She also has a 5 gal. bucket of snakeskin agate, and several other buckets of slices of various material.

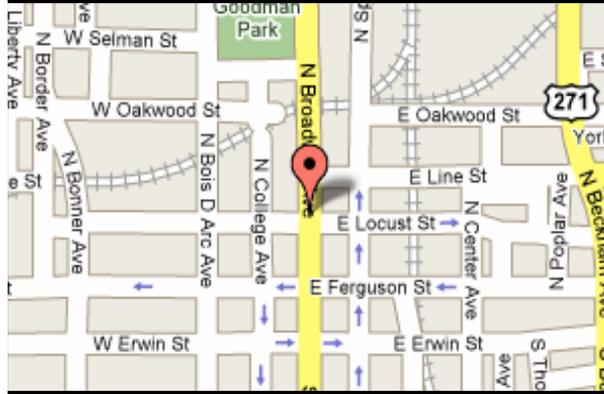
If you are interested in a large purchase call or email me. I will make arrangements to take you to her barn.

Dale Miller
817-229-0336



CLUB OFFICERS

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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.

Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor by the 15th of the month. Please keep your address, phone and email information up-to-date, so that we can get the newsletter to you in a timely manner. Out-of-date information costs the club time and money in returned newsletters.

Thank you
SB

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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