



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1 VOLUME 39 TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2013

Coming Shows, 2013

**DECEMBER 6-8
EL PASO, TEXAS**
Annual show
El Paso Mineral & Gem Society
El Maida Auditorium

Coming Shows, 2014

**JANUARY 24-26
TYLER, TEXAS**
Annual Show
East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
Rose Garden Center

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VESTS, PATCHES AND TAGS

The Club is making an order to come in time for the show, if you would like any of the items below, please contact Bill Faulkner at 903-539-0439 for details.

Blue vests: Size S-5X	\$15-\$27
7" Club logo patches	\$10
3" Club logo patches	\$1.50
Texas shaped name tags	\$10.50
Club logo 1" pins	\$2

The deadline to order these items at this price is at the December 2nd Club meeting. The prices go up considerably when ordered alone, so make sure to get your items now!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to remind everybody that our Annual Gem & Mineral Show is almost here, just a few short months away. If you haven't already signed up to take part in the show, and would like to, please let me know. We need members to sign up for the Dealers' Dinner, Silent Auction, Wheel of Fortune, Fluorescent Display, Front Desk, Show Setup, and Showcases. Sign up early, so you can select a time that works best for your schedule. I would like to encourage our members to set up a showcase. If you think you want to and need some help, me or one of the other members will be glad to help. There are only 6 showcases left, so if you want to set up a showcase let me know. I will have the sign up sheets at the pre-show workshop and the December meeting. We will have a pre-show workshop at 9:00 AM, December 14, at Bill Faulkner's house. If you have any items you can donate for the Silent Auction or materials to make items for the January Show, you can bring them to the pre-show workshop or our monthly meeting. If you need help getting these items to the club give me a call, and I will see if we can get you some help.

I handed out questionnaires at the November meeting, and received a lot of great input that will help structure programs, events and classes to meet the needs of our members and the community. It also will help us update members' contact information so everybody will receive the newsletter and updates on events that we receive information on, throughout the month. If you didn't pick up one at the meeting and need one, just drop me an email. Many members commented on how great our newsletter is. Susan wants more articles from members. Some of the members and I would like to know a lot more about our other members and their activities. And as a personal note, the question on what would you like to see in our newsletter, I know everybody enjoys our newsletter. But if Susan is going to continue to deliver a great publication that meets the needs of our members, she needs to hear from all of us.

There is also some interest in having classes on silversmithing, wire wrapping, mineral identification, and other areas. We have a lot of members with experience in these areas, and if those of you with experience in these areas can find time and would like to teach your skills to other members please contact me.

I need a chairman to organize the Rock Swap scheduled on April 5, 2014. This will be organized as a social event for members of our club and other area clubs that would like to join us. I can help whoever decides fill this position. Anybody that thinks they would like to be the Rock Swap Chairman give me a call. I would really like to see more members step up fill the needs of the club. But if you would like to be drafted into this position, go ahead and give me a call too.

We will be ordering name tags, vests, and embroidered emblems for interested members. Susan will publish prices and order deadline.

The December meeting is our annual Christmas Gift Exchange. I hope we have a big turnout this year. For all you new members, this is something you don't want to miss. Just bring a gift that is club related; lapidary, mineral, fossil, geology, etc. For all of our new members, we draw numbers for a gift and then the fun begins. I remember last year's Gift Exchange, and everybody had a great time. P.S. Bring finger food and sweets.

Kinney Polve



NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order November 4, 2013 at 6:50 pm by President Kenney Polve.

Kenney recognized guest and new members.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Becky Whisenant made the motion and it was seconded by Susan Burch.

Bill Faulkner gave the Treasurer's report.

Announcements: Kenny called attention to the silent auction and door prizes for the evening. Also membership dues were due in October. If you have not joined for the year please do so now. Susan Burch would like to have your help with articles for the newsletter. All members should help Susan make the newsletter serve you better.

Lapidary Sub Group: The regular monthly meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on November 9th at the home of Terry Roberts.

Mineral Sub Group: This group will meet at 7:00 p.m. on November 21st at the home of Don Campbell. They have finished the topic of crystallography and will begin looking at basic elements.

Field Trips: Randy Harmon announced a field trip for November 16th. Please put your name on the sign up sheet if you plan to attend. The group will meet in Waco at the Mammoth Site at 9:30 a.m. That address is 6220 Steinbeck Bend Dr. The phone number is 254-750-7946 and the web address is www.wacomammoth.org. After about an hour they will move southwest to Highway 107 to look for Turritella limestone in Coryell Co. After a couple of hours they will move to the Gatesville/Clifton area.

Please give Randy any ideas for field trips that you would like the club to plan.

Volunteers: Please sign up for the many time slots at the annual gem and mineral show in January. All members are needed.

Thank you to Jack Shull who presented a program to the Trinity Valley College Geology Club.

Becky Whisenant worked a booth at the East Texas Fair for the Certified Master Naturalists and also gave out information about our group.

Old Business: The Tyler Public Library has made display cases on both the first floor and upstairs available to us during January. Your help is needed to fill the cases to make the public aware of our association.

The Houston Gem and Mineral Show is November 9th. Also on November 9th The Dallas Gem and Mineral group is holding a rock swap.

Please fill out a membership questionnaire so the board can better shape the club to your interest.

Show flyers are available. Take as many as you can display around town to advertise the annual rock show on January 24th, 25th and 26th.

Becky Whisenant is working on youth activities for the show. Letters are being sent to surrounding area schools and home school groups inviting them to the show. Let Becky know if you will help her with this work.

The work day to get ready for the show will be 9:00 a.m. on December 14th at the home of Bill Faulkner. Bring donations at that time or to the regular club meeting in December.

Name tags are being ordered. They are red and in the shape of Texas. For an order of 10 the cost is \$10.50. If you order on your own the cost will be \$12. Bill Faulkner will take your order and money. The club will order pins, patches and vests. Let Bill know what items you are interested in purchasing. The deadline to place orders will be at the December meeting.

A motion was made by Becky Whisenant for the club to hold a first annual rock swap the first Saturday in April at a location to be named later. The motion was seconded by Keith Harmon. It is hoped that this will become an annual social event for the club. A volunteer is needed to chair this activity.

New Business: The board presented amendments to the constitution needed to meet requirements to make the club meet standards required to file for 501C3 status to qualify as non-profit and to receive donations.



Meeting minutes continued:

Discussion followed. A motion was made to approve the changes by Bill Faulkner. It was seconded by Terry Nicholson. The amendments were accepted by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: The December meeting will be the annual Christmas Gift Exchange. Bring a hobby related gift and come for an evening of fun.

A motion was made by Keith Harmon to close the business meeting. It was seconded by Terry Roberts. The motion passed.

A drawing for door prizes and break for refreshments followed.

The program was presented by Don Campbell on creating display cases for the annual rock show. He showed the available case and how to personalize it. A slide show of cases from other shows presented ideas on how to create an interesting display.

Terry Roberts gave a report on the field trip to the Walker Ranch with slides and samples.

The silent auction was closed.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Davis

NEWSLETTER SUGGESTIONS

Do you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see in the newsletter, or even header design changes, etc? This is your newsletter, you have a say. This year the front banner and headers were the same as last year. If you'd like to see a change in either for 2014, let me know.
Susan Burch, Editor



WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Our December 2 meeting will feature a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Rules: Everyone who wishes to participate brings a wrapped hobby related gift to the party. The first participant picks a gift to unwrap. The second player chooses another gift or may take the gift from the first. This is called stealing. Subsequent players follow. If someone is a victim of a theft, he or she may steal or select another gift. There is a limit to how many times a gift can be stolen, after this limit is reached the gift is then frozen with that player. The game ends when everyone has a gift. The first player goes last. That player may trade a gift with any guest if he/she wishes unless that gift is frozen. This type of gift exchange removes the burden and stress of purchasing a gift for everyone. It encourages conversation, humor and memories. Be sure to bring lots of snacks to enjoy during this party. It's a great time for fun and fellowship with your fellow rockhounds.





WALKER RANCH TRIP

By Kenney Polve

I woke up early,
And headed down the road.
To head to West Texas,
To a site I was told.

I drove all day,
Until I ran out of gas.
I called AAA,
And said "Can you get here fast".

Back on the road,
And camped for the night.
Up early the next morning,
An hour before daylight.

Loaded the gear in the truck,
And back on the road.
Headed to that great spot,
Or so I was told.

Drove over the hill,
And parked the truck.
Jumped on the 6-wheel,
To go try my luck.

We turned off the road,
And headed up the trail.
We didn't go too far,
That's all I can tell.

I stopped on the trail,
And what did I see?
Vicky jumped off the 6-wheel,
She got down on her knee.

Her eyes popping out,
She was picking the ground.
This must be the spot,
There were rocks all around.

After five days,
Of loading the truck.
Axle on the frame,
And it started to buck.

If you ever get a chance,
To head out that way.
I can tell you a place,
That you might want to stay.

Next time Terry tells you,
About a good rockhounding site.
Remember this poem,
He just might be right.

Below: Pictures taken on the October 2013 Walker Ranch field trip. Provided by Terry Roberts from the PowerPoint presentation he used at the November meeting.





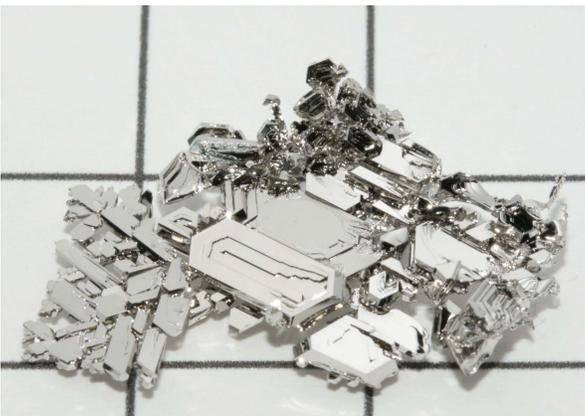
LAPIDARY AND JEWELRY SUBGROUP UPDATES

The Lapidary/Jewelry group met on October 19 at Bill Faulkner's house. Nine members, including one new member, were present. Kinney Polve talked to the group about helping the club create items for the annual show next January. It was agreed that the group will hold a workshop in lieu of our regular meeting activities at the December and January meetings to work on items needed for the Wheel of Fortune and the Silent Auction. More details will be provided later.

Terry brought a couple of buckets of rock that he collected at the last field trip to the Walker Ranch to share with the L/J members. Several members went through the material to collect rock for cutting and cabbing at a later time. Terry also provided an assortment of slabs from various sites for those members who didn't have a rock saw to work with. Susan Burch gave wire wrapping lessons on pendants and earrings for several group members. Everyone enjoyed the meeting and socializing, as well as the refreshments provided by Bill.

Nine members of the L/J group met at Terry Roberts' home on November 9. Mitch Young brought a collection of wire wrapped pendants and asked for some help and tips on improving his wire wrapping technique. He had a very nice selection of cabs, including some seashells that he had sliced and filled with glues of different colors. Kinney asked one of our members who has experience in silversmithing, among other jewelry making skills, if he would give us a silversmithing demonstration at a future meeting. He agreed to do it. If there is sufficient interest among the group, he may offer a beginning class in the technique. Terry Roberts demonstrated the use of a very thin superglue to repair small cracks that you may find in slab material. Several members were interested and purchased some bottles of the superglue. The members also looked through the rough rock that was donated to the club and is now stored at Terry's home. The meeting adjourned about 4:30.

The next meeting of the L/J group will be held at the home of Bill Faulkner starting at 9:00 am on December 14 and run until 4:00 pm, if needed. This will be a work day for the annual show in January 2014 and is open to all club members. It will replace the usual work day the club held in January each year at Don's business location. We need as many members of the club, not just the L/J group, to show up so we can get as much work done on the Wheel of Fortune and Silent Auction items as possible. The work shop will continue on the next meeting of the L/J group in January, if necessary. A map showing the location of Bill's home can be found on the club's web site. Terry Roberts



Platinum

By Cheri Rodger

Platinum is a silver-white metallic element that occurs worldwide. It is ductile (may be drawn into wire shapes) and malleable (can be pounded into thinner shapes), and does not oxidize in air. Its atomic number is 78, with a melting point of 1772 deg. C and a boiling point of 3827 deg. C. It is chemically inactive, therefore resists corrosion. It is soft and easy to carve, and is often carved into quite intricate designs.

The word platinum comes from New Latin, from Spanish platina, means "Silver." It was not recognized as a chemical element until 1735. Of the most precious metals, it is the rarest and the most valuable.

Platinum forms in igneous rocks, as ores in which the grains of Platinum are

so minute they cannot be seen without a chemical test or a microscope. It can also occur in streams as river sands and gravels, and as nuggets. It is found in meteorites. Current mining production usually has ore which contains 44% Platinum, 52% Palladium, & 4% other, it takes 10 tons & 5 months for 1 ounce of Platinum to be produced. Platinum and its alloys have been known since antiquity. It has only been worked since the technology became available to reach its high melting point, somewhere in the 1920s. Platinum and its alloys are used in surgical tools, laboratory utensils, electrical wires, contact points, jewelry, dentistry, and very powerful magnets. Also used as a catalyst in automobile catalytic converters for anti pollution devices. Found in S. Africa, Canada, Alaska, Russia, Australia, Colombia and Peru.

From The Southwest Gem 10/01 via ROK TOK 12/98; via Stoney Statements 02/10

Pictures from the Internet, above, Platinum crystal structure, at right, Platinum nugget.





LAPIDARY CORNER

A handy hint: Have a note pad next to the tumbler to record the date, time, and condition of the stones during the various steps and grit changes.

Polishes: There are many different polishes for the final stage. The best one for you will be determined by experimenting. Some of them are: Rapid 61, Aluminum Oxide, Cerium Oxide, Tin Oxide, Chrome Oxide, and Tripoli. Suggestion: Rapid 61, Cerium, or Tin Oxide.

Burnishing: Use a soap rinse between the 3rd cycle and polish, then after the final polish. Bar Ivory soap is the only pure soap we know of. Chemical additives in other soap and detergents seem to leave a residue on the stones. The dark color when this soap rinse is poured off shows how much grit were still on what you thought were clean stones. Shave the bar with a knife or whatever method you wish. The water-soap combination reaches a balance when little bubbles appear on the surface of the moving material and should remain this way throughout the soap cycles. The soap bubbles provide a cushion for the stones. Excess water slows down the process.

From The Rockhound Gazette, 02/97; via Stoney Statements 02/10



TUMBLING By Bob Hicks

GENERAL INFORMATION

Two methods of tumbling being discussed will be with the rotating tumbler. For both methods the grinding medium is silicon carbide.

The grits: (anything under Rough grit 100) is used for the first stage. Medium grit (120 to 300) is used in the second stage. Fine grit (400 to 600) is used for the third stage.

Estimating cost: As a "rule of thumb," silicon carbide, 220 to 400 grit weighs approximately 0.8 ounces per tablespoon. Fine grits 400 to 600 and polishing powders weigh approximately 0.5 ounces per tablespoon.

Weigh your stones when you get your tumbler 2/3 to 3/4 full. For example, a six-pound tumbler does not always hold six pounds of rocks. As a rule of thumb, use 1 tablespoon of grit per pound of stones, or 1 tablespoon per two pounds of the manufacturer's weight rating of the tumbler. Most tumbling books suggest more grit and polish than is really necessary.

Volume shrinkage: Roughly 25 percent of the beginning volume tumbled in step one will turn to mud, so run two loads of step one. This will provide the filler material to replace those that were ground away or thrown away from the first step.

Size and hardness of stones: A superior polish requires a variety of sizes, with emphasis on lots of small chips that help polish the larger stones. All stones in a load should be of the same approximate hardness. Softer stones will not polish and may be gouged by harder stones.

CAUTIONS:

Do not let the slurry mud dry on the material in any cycle. If you goof and you have hardened mud, fill the tumbler with water and let it run until the mud has washed off or is soft enough to wash off with a hose or faucet. **DO NOT POUR SLURRY DOWN THE DRAIN,** (Unless you can afford lots of plumbing bills.)

Some materials like jade or obsidian require different procedures.

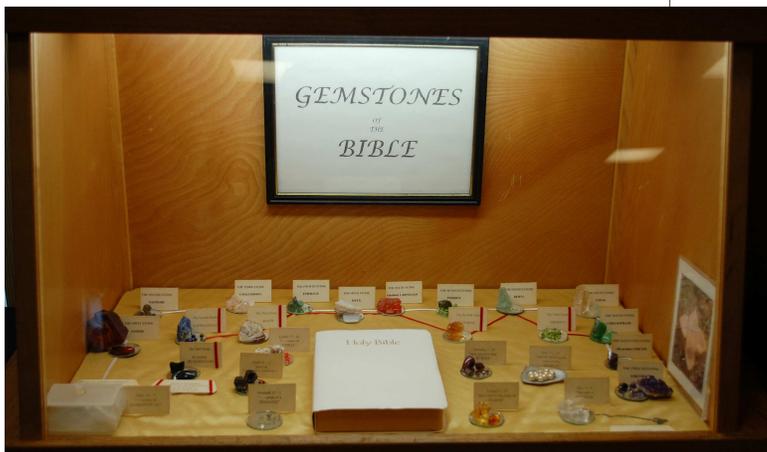
From The Rockhound Gazette, 02/97; via Stoney Statements 02/10



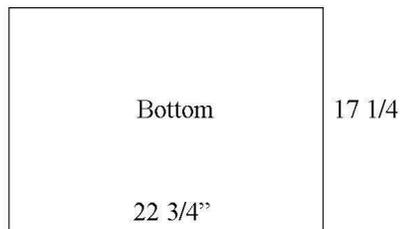
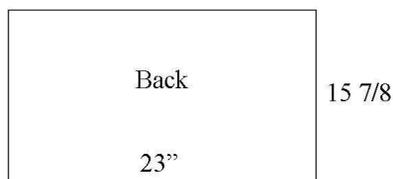
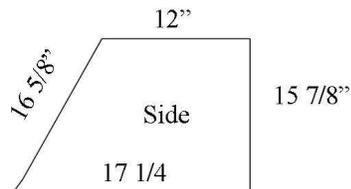
Kenny Polve sent in corrected drawings and dimensions for our display case liners. The show is coming up soon...have you thought of putting together items to showcase your interest in the hobby?

Thanks goes to Don Campbell for presenting a program on our display cases.

Below: Sample cases from last year's show.



Display Case Liners



EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM



Name(s): _____ Anniversary _____ Birth Date: _____ Adult: _____ Jr. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

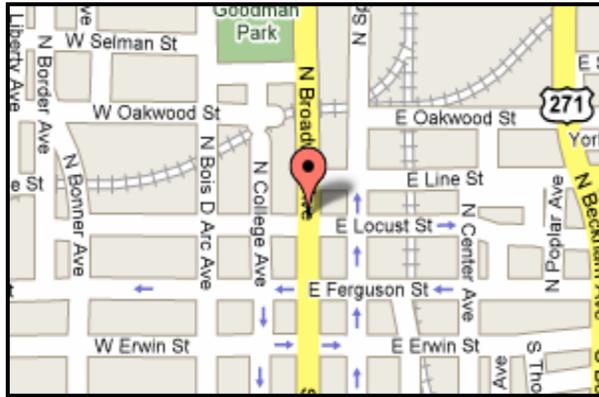
E-mail: _____ Newsletter via e-mail? Y ___ N ___

Special Interest in the hobby: _____ Date Paid: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone or Cell: _____ Dues Paid:\$ _____

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Kenney Polve 8665 CR 373D Henderson, TX 75654	903-646-3189
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN	Randy Harmon 13621 Shannon Lindale, TX 75771	903-539-0379
SHOW CHAIRMAN:	Keith Harmon 9116 US HWY 84 W Rusk, TX 75785	903-795-3860
CLUB ADDRESS FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES:	East Texas Gem & Mineral Society P. O. BOX 132532 Tyler, TX 75713-2532	



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. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call me as this is the best way to reach me. 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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