



ROCK -N- ROSE



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VOLUME 34

TYLER, TEXAS

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OCTOBER 2008

Coming Shows, 2008

NOVEMBER

1-2—MIDLAND, TEXAS:
Midland Gem & Mineral Society
Midland Center

7-9--TULSA, OKLAHOMA
Rocky Mountain Federation show-
Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society
Tulsa County Fairgrounds

8-9--AMARILLO, TEXAS
Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Soc.
The Amarillo Civic Center

8-9--ROUND ROCK, TEXAS:
Show, "Fossil Fest 2008"; Paleon-
tological Society of Austin

14-16--TULSA, OKLAHOMA:
"Bead Renaissance Show"
J&J Promotions LLC
Expo Square, Trade Center

21-23--ALBUQUERQUE,
"Bead Renaissance Show"
J&J Promotions LLC
New Mexico State Fairgrounds

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WANTED!

Our Field Trip Chair has decided to retire. Although we would like her to stay on, as of January 2009, we won't have an active Field Trip Chairperson, we need someone to step up and take the job.

Could that be you???

Please forgive me for not being able to get a newsletter out last month, along with power outages, IKE caused my telephone service to be disrupted, meaning no internet. Thankfully, Don Campbell stepped up and put out an issue to fill the bill. Although he did tell me that he did not envy me my job and he would not want to do it on a regular basis. Thank you Don, for helping out when it was needed!

SB, Editor



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Club met Monday, October 13, 2008 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler. President Rip Criss called the meeting to order at 7:00. The club welcomed Brenda Sinclair's young guest, Wyatt, and our newest member, Dorothy. She is Ed's new wife. Congratulations, Ed & Dorothy!! There was a motion & 2nd to adopt the minutes (not published this month, thanks to hurricane Ike) which passed. Jerri gave the treasurer's report and asked everyone to provide her with updated 911 addresses and new phone & e-mail contacts. Colleen gave a field trip report on the foray to the Ash Grove cement quarry in Midlothian. 8 club members attended and brought back pyritized ammonites, septarian clusters, shark teeth and tiny pyrite cube clusters. They enjoyed a day with members of the Ft. Worth and Lockheed clubs thanks to collaborative efforts by Peter Cornell and our own Laura Wilson. Rip stated that he was keeping an eye on Mac Creek near Elkhart for favorable conditions to find red flame agate pieces and small petrified wood pieces.

There was no old business and under new business Susan reported on her trip to the Houston show to receive several awards for our club. Don & Becky received a (joint) 6th place from the South Central Federation for their feature article on the Llano uplift field trip last summer. Susan also brought back the following awards: 4th place for Special Publications; 4th place for Small Bulletins; 8th place for features and Honorable Mention for Small Bulletins (from the American Federation). Good work, Susan, and all the members of East TX G & M!!

Next was election of officers for next year. The proposed slate was as follows: Rip Criss, president; Annette Cunningham, vice president; Penny Hawkins, secretary; Jerri Kitchens, treasurer; Annette Cunningham, publicity chair, Keith Harmon, show chairman; Susan Burch, newsletter editor, and field trip chairman is vacant at present. There was a motion & 2nd to accept these nominees for the offices as presented. This passed. Laura reported that she is trying to organize a field trip for October or November to a glass factory in Corsicana.

After a delicious refreshment break, Keith, Don & Rip pumped up the crowd for the annual auction. There were candle rocks, slabs, interesting fluorescents, beautiful jewelry and an original stained glass work featuring a slab of agate by long time member Colleen. Don's excellent trilobite specimens contributed greatly to the auction, especially the plate with 2 different species and a beautiful double cast. There were also some beautiful mineral specimens and unusual petrified wood. Bidding was lively and fun for all. Everyone went home with a piece to admire and the club benefited once again. Bringing in a whopping \$1052.00. Keith kept the browbeating to a minimum and is greatly appreciated for his energy, interest and experience. As is Don, Rip, and all those that contributed items to make the auction possible.

Meeting adjourned 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, secretary



NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

TBA



Fossil Fest 2008

The Paleontological Society of Austin is sponsoring their 18th annual fossil show - **Fossil Fest 2008**, at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock, next to the Dell Diamond on **November 8th and 9th**, 2008. This year's theme is: "What's in YOUR Backyard?" - highlighting fossils from in and around the Central Texas area. A fun and educational event for the entire family with door prizes, demos, displays, a spin the fossil wheel, a fossil dig pit, and dealers from around the country selling fossils and fossil related material from around the world. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students, and children under 6 are free. Visit their website for more details. <www.texaspaleo.com> via Stone Chipper 10/08



AFMS/SCFMS News



The combined AFMS/SCFMS/HGMS show went on despite hurricane Ike on the week-end of September 26th. Kudos goes to the Houston Gem and Mineral Society and their show committee, especially Shiara Trumble for working so diligently to make the show go on! They searched for available hotel rooms up until the show as well as offering up their own homes to attendees. They made last minute changes to meeting and food sites and managed to pull everything off successfully. All this was handled despite their own problems at home with wind damage and power outages. Due to concerns about lodging, the AFMS decided to cancel their meetings; however the judging of cases and award presentations went on as scheduled. Unfortunately the meeting site for the Texas Faceters' Guild was damaged by the storm so they also had to cancel. The SCFMS meetings went on as planned. Judging by the crowds on Saturday, the general public was looking forward to some fun and education. Many brought their children who had missed Friday due to so many schools still being closed. The "Breakfast With the Editors" on Saturday morning was also heavily attended and quite delicious at the quaint Humble City Grill. I understand that the awards banquet that night was just as successful. We all stand in awe of a show that not only went on, in spite of nature's fury, but was also a stand out event!

~Laura Dow, Newsletter co-editor, Stone Chipper 10/08



Have You Taken a Rockhounding Vacation Recently? by Kreigh Tomaszewski

At my Club Show this year I gave my contact info to several teachers. One of them contacted me a couple weeks ago about coming to her school and making a presentation to end their section on earth science. Today I took the afternoon off from work and headed for the Creative Technologies Academy, a charter school in Cedar Springs, MI, about a half hour away from my home in Grand Rapids. I set up in the library, and was soon joined by about 45 3rd and 4th grade students, and their teachers.

We talked about how everything we use is either grown or mined, and that the plants at the bottom of the food chain do their own mining. I related my specimens to the things that are common in their life. Gypsum for the plaster in their walls, fluorite for fluoride in their toothpaste, halite for table salt, talc for baby powder, wolframite for the tungsten filament in their light bulbs, and the graphite 'lead' in their pencils. Each specimen had a story. We talked about how rocks weather and make sand, and how you can learn about the past by studying sand. We went thru sedimentary and metamorphic rocks and talked about volcanoes and igneous rocks. We talked about plate tectonics and the formation of mountains, rifts, and subduction trenches. We talked about how minerals are chemicals, and how that forms the basis of how minerals are classified. We reviewed ways to identify minerals, including hardness, streak, cleavage, crystal forms, specific gravity (seeing a rock get lighter in water is a 'WOW!' experience), and even touched on flame tests. We talked about how minerals are collected, catalogued, labeled, sold, and traded.

The kids had made egg carton collections (including some specimens the teacher had purchased at our show in quantity) and I identified a number of unknowns they had collected (the best was a grapefruit sized calcite cluster one student had dug up in his backyard). They got some time to come up and handle my specimens and ask questions. Each student left with a labeled specimen of schorl to add to their collection. The teacher got to photocopy my packet of handouts gleaned from a variety of educational sources. I got a thank you poster signed by all the students. I had a great afternoon. I enjoy sharing my passion for rockhounding. Kids enjoy learning about the world they are growing up in. I think it went well since the kids complained when the teachers finally indicated time was up (and I ran over the planned hour by another half because of questions -- we really did talk).

Representing your Club in a classroom is a great way to forget the world for a while, as you make a difference in our future. A class full of kids needs your full attention. A class full of kids needs your full attention. A class full of kids needs your full attention. Period! A vacation is time off from work, where you do something different enough that you forget work entirely, at least for a (short) while. When was your last rockhounding vacation?

Via Scribe Newsletter



WHY IS THE TEXAS CAPITOL PINK?

Back in the 1880's a man by the name of G.W. Lacy owned a ranch in the Hill Country northwest of Austin near Marble Falls. On this ranch was a huge chunk of granite-in fact a real mountain of it that stuck 150 feet out of the ground. You know the problems some farmers have with rocks in their fields. Well, this was one big rock and Mr. Lacy couldn't figure out just what to do with it. Nothing would grow on it and after all, this is what ranches are for. At one time he tried, but unsuccessfully, to swap it to a neighbor for a horse and saddle. About this time, sometime in 1884 we're told, the people at the Capitol grounds in Austin had run into a problem that threatened to shut down construction of the new State Capitol building. The limestone that had been specified for the exterior walls had arrived, about 60 tons of it, and the construction superintendent declared it to be unsuitable. It had pyrite inclusions that would leave rust stains down the sides of the building, and besides, it would weather to an ugly gray color, the man said. A suggestion was made to have white granite shipped from Indiana. This was flatly rejected by the governor, who was incensed at the idea of the Texas Capitol being made of "foreign" material. When Mr. Lacy heard about this he knew his great opportunity had come to get rid of at least part of that pesky rock, so he went down to Austin and offered to give the state all it could use. There was only one problem... it was pink. It sounded like a good deal anyway, to the fellows down in Austin, so about 104 of them with a scattering of newsmen boarded a special train and headed out to take a look and, at the same time, enjoy a good free meal and a snow job by the local townspeople. The end of this story is that "Granite Mountain," as it was called, became the official quarry for the Texas Capitol, and Texas has a beautiful pink Capitol.

For more about the Capitol Building, visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/capitol>.

~From *Gneiss Gnews* 07/98, via *SCFMS*, *The Rockytier*, *The Southwest Gem* 08/03, *The Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter* 09/03 via *Stone chipper* 08/08



**"Remember, we agreed. I'd carry the canned goods in
if you'd carry the rocks out."**

by Ebners from *Dust & Grit* 2/00
via *Golden Spike News* 3/00



You Think English is Easy?

Can you read these right the first time?

- 1 - The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
- 2 - The farm was used to **produce produce**.
- 3 - The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
- 4 - We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
- 5 - He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.
- 6 - The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
- 7 - Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.
- 8 - A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
- 9 - When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.
- 10 - I did not **object** to the **object**.
- 11 - The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
- 12 - There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.
- 13 - They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
- 14 - The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.
- 15 - A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** line.
- 16 - To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
- 17 - The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.
- 18 - Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting, I shed a **tear**.
- 19 - I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.
- 20 - How can I **intimate** this to my most **intimate** friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England nor French Fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indexes? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital, ship by truck and send cargo by ship, have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill-in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

PS. - Why doesn't **Buick** rhyme with **quick**?

Via Scribe Newsletter July-September, 2008



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As you can see from the preceding article (You Think English is Easy?), it's not always easy to discern the meaning or pronounce correctly many words in the English language. As your editor, I try to make sure that the issues of our newsletter contain articles that will keep you interested, yet keeping close to the flavor of the author, are spelled and grammatically correct. Yes, English was invented by people, not computers, however, sometimes I am so thankful that computers were invented, as they make my job a little easier. Yes, I excelled in English in school, but was not that good at Spelling. So, spell check is my very dear friend. Typing, so much simpler and less messy than writing it out. E-mail, so much faster and less costly than getting the info and research via snail-mail. Of course these are only my personal opinions, not a rule of any kind. However, when I sit down to write something, most of the time my mind goes blank, am I knowledgeable about something that might interest the club? Probably! Of course, I don't have a degree in anything, but there are many aspects of our hobby that I could write about. My rock collections as a child, what kind of rocks interest me now, and of course why I like Arkansas quartz.

The reason I bring these to your attention, is that these are not complicated subject matter, quite simple really. Yet very few of our members submit articles to me for our newsletter. Late last month, I attended the 'Breakfast With The Editors' down in Humble, (constantly being reminded that the H is silent), at the HGMS show. As I sat listening to all the awards and certificates being awarded to other clubs, I was thinking to myself that 'we have so many interesting people in our club that could have submitted something and won those awards'. The Houston and Austin clubs just about wiped the floor with the rest of us. Although, there was only one entry of an article by a child in the whole federation, guess which place it won?

Now I have to mention, that we did come away with a few of the certificates. One 6th place award was won by an article I edited, putting together a part that was written by Becky Whisenant, and another part by Don Campbell. The article was a commentary on a field trip to Llano. Now these two did not even know I had entered that article for them. It's amazing what a few thoughts jotted down can generate. My article in the same category placed 8th. The membership brochure I designed last year was entered under 'special publications', placed 4th. Also, one issue of the newsletter that I had entered under 'small bulletins' placed 4th. Now, the AFMS committee had notified me that we would be receiving these certificates, but not which places they would be in. However, to my surprise, our newsletter also attained an Honorable Mention in the SCFMS Bulletin contest. YEEHA

Although I realize writing can sometimes be hard to do, it does not have to be complicated. A short poem, a couple of paragraphs about a field trip you went on, or why you collect a certain mineral, think about how much your contribution would mean to the rest of the club and also make my job a little easier. The spot your article or poem fills would not require me to search for something else. OK, sorry, just a little guilt here. Think you are no good at writing? Jot down your ideas, then you are welcome to ask, I am always willing to help anyone who wishes to contribute. The most prevalent stumbling block to writing is not the subject, you already know about a lot of things. It's those feelings of inadequacy, let me tell you, I have them too. So, do me a favor (and the rest of the club) get out those pens, pencils, or keyboards and write about something that interests you. There's a good chance it will interest your fellow club members too.

Susan Burch, Editor



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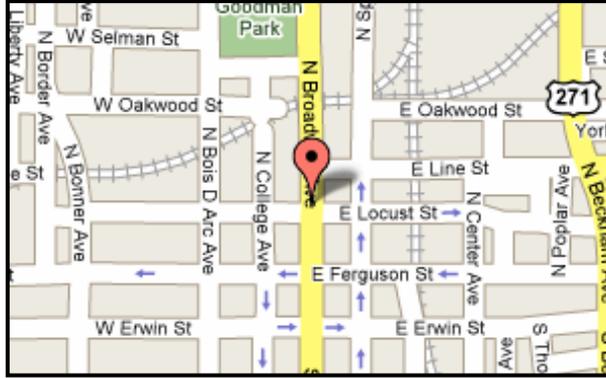
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, 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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