



# ROCK -N- ROSE



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VOLUME 33

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2007

## Coming Shows, 2007

**NOVEMBER 02-04**  
**ROUND ROCK, TX**  
**Paleontology Soc. Of Austin**

**NOVEMBER 10-22**  
**LEESVILLE, LA**  
**De Ridder Gem & Min. Soc**

**NOVEMBER 17-18**  
**MESQUITE, TX**  
**Dallas Gem & Min. Soc**  
**Resitol Arena Exhibition Hall**

**NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 01-02**  
**AUSTIN, TX**  
**Austin Gem & Min. Soc.**  
**Palmer Events Center**

## FIELD TRIP INFO

**No new info for November**

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## President's Message

I would like to start by thanking the members of our society (the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society) for allowing me to represent you as your president. I consider this an honor and will do my best to fulfill the trust you have put in me.

The thing I would like to talk about in this message is our commitment to our society. As a group we have been working hard to carry our society forward. People have been willing to contribute their time and energy to make our society and its projects a success. By working together, we have been able to accomplish many things. We now have the opportunity to do even more.

The recent arrangement with The Discovery Science Place has opened up a whole new opportunity for our society to spread "the word" about the lapidary experience. Everyone in our society has a "special talent" or field of interest in the lapidary arts that they can share with others. Please consider volunteering to put on a workshop or to help with one at TDSP. Activities like these will help to generate public awareness of our society, which can lead to increased society membership and increased attendance at our shows each year. Only through attracting new members, particularly youth and their parents, can our society hope to continue to thrive for another 50 plus years. Also, increased revenues from the shows will put us that much closer to our goal of building a workshop, where we can further expand our opportunities to teach lapidary arts and spread "the word". Everyone in our society has something they can contribute and the feeling you get when you see the joy of discovery in another's eyes is priceless!

Don't forget - October is our auction ! Please bring in those special rocky things you've picked up at shows and on field trips just for this event. It helps to generate funds for our society projects and gives other members an opportunity to get some nice specimens that they might not get otherwise.

See you there !!!

Robert (Rip) Criss



## OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 6:49 on October 1st, 2007. There were no minutes to approve and Colleen gave the treasurer's report. She announced that Jerri would be taking over her position and that dues are due for next year. For field trip reports, Don Campbell presented physical evidence that all attendees had a great time in Oklahoma and everyone survived the dangerous road cuts on Interstate 35, once again confirmation that some hounds will brave anything for a rock. Hear, hear.

Bob gave a briefing on the upcoming field trip to the Jasper area for a last collection of petrified wood on Oct. 6th. The group planned to meet at The Stump Restaurant at 8:15 east of the dam on Hwy 255. Marilyn also discussed a possible fossil examining and collecting trip the last weekend of October to Travis County and the Glen Rose area to coincide with Fossil Mania in Glen Rose. She urged those interested to e-mail her for further plans. Marilyn also reported on the opportunity to look for fossils in the Austin area and visit the UT research lab where they are currently inventorying 100 years of fossils. This is a possible field trip in the making. Laura also reported that she had an information sheet on the Elison Miles Geo-Technical Institute.

Rip gave a report on the club's first youth education outreach endeavor with a Tyler Boy Scout Troup held at the Discovery Science Place on Friday Sept. 28th. He, Don and Jon Laverty presented an informative program to 21 students for a badge requirement. The young men receiving instruction and free rocks were very young (5 & 6??) but were very enthusiastic and enjoyable. Lots of rocks were given away to grateful recipients!

President Rip reminded everyone that dues are \$10 for an individual, \$2.50 for a jr. member and \$20.00 for the entire family. What a deal!

Marilyn proudly displayed her gorgeous chunk of raw tiger's eye she obtained at the Houston club's show and explained how it was formed. Then after door prizes were given out, Bob could no longer conceal the fact that one of the most outstanding features of the Oklahoma trip had nothing really to do with a rock, and that is the Pie Shop at exit 51 off I 35. Yes, Bob, we'll certainly remember that next time we go.

Such tidbits of information are taken seriously by roving rockhounds.

After a food break (!!), the club held their annual auction with Keith Harmon at the gavel. He banged the gavel, explained procedures and we began. Some great specimens had been contributed and were happily bid on. A lively time with lots of bidding, smiles and urging from Keith helped add funds to our treasury. Treasures such as fluorite, a pyrite cube, beautiful cut cabochons, a rare piece of special quartz from the Jeffries mine and Cole County, OK trilobites were vied for as well as jewelry, beautiful petrified wood, fossils, and lots more. The club wishes to thank those who parted with some of their collection and also those who contributed financially to adopt those pieces. Everybody left happy and meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Our program for the month of October was the annual auction.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Our November 5th club meeting program will be a slide program on the agates and petrified wood of Texas, Big Bend, and Mexico.



## **A.F.M.S. News**

### **AFMS Code of Ethics**

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

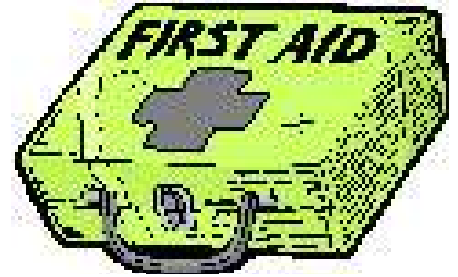
I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.



# Safety First:

## IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

By Mel Albright  
AFMS Safety Chair



You pick up a rock that looks promising. You can't quite tell if it's any good. You want to see what's inside. So, you take your rock hammer or another rock and hit it to chip off a piece. ZING, a chip hits your eye. You are now one-eyed.

That great specimen you want is partially buried in the matrix right there! All you have to do is get it loose without breaking it. So, you grab a chisel and a hammer and start chipping. ZING, a chip hits your eye. You are now one-eyed.

You need to get that rock out of the ground. All it needs is a little prying. You grab a crowbar, point the end at the crack and bang it down to force it into the ground. ZING, a chip hits your eye. You are now one-eyed.

You want some rocks for tumbling. All you have are too big. So, you grab a big one, set it down on the ground, take a hammer and bang away. ZING, a chip hits your eye. You are now one-eyed.

Your piece of slab is too big. It's real time consuming to trim it with your saw. So, you grab a pair of pliers, grab a corner, and pry to break it off. ZING, a chip hits your eye. You are now one-eyed, OR, you score the slab with a glass cutter, line the score over a bench edge, and start tapping to break it. ZING, a chip hits your eye. You are now one-eyed.

You're cleaning a fossil. As you chip away to get matrix off, you lean closer and closer to see that you get it exactly right. Suddenly your hammer slips and bounces. ZING, the hammer hits your eye. You are now one-eyed.

You're gluing with epoxy. You get a little hardener on your hand. You wipe the sweat off your forehead. You get a little hardener in your eye. ZING, you are now one-eyed.

Wild? Exaggerated? Not really. It happens all too often. Plastic safety glasses at WalMart - about \$1. Plastic face shield at WalMart - about \$5. Worth it?

*~From Stone Age News, 10/04, via Stone Chipper 2/07*



## **Those Beautiful Knobby - Bumpy Garden Rocks**

**By Paul W. Good  
AGMS Club Member**

I was born and raised in Greene County, Indiana. My father owned 19 acres there and we grew a lot of vegetables, field corn, and soy beans. We had our own apple trees and we grew a lot of strawberries, blackberries and raspberries. When I was a youngster, about five years old, my grandfather, father, and brother drove over to Lawrence County, which was next to Greene County, and picked up a pickup truck load of “garden rocks.” They loaded the rocks by hand. The rocks resembled many different things: some like a football, being oblong, others were sphere-like, and some were sort of round and flat. They only brought back the bigger ones. Most of them were from four to nine inches across. They didn’t want to “mess” with the smaller ones under four inches. They brought them home and divided them between three families who lived within a half mile of each other: Grandpa Good, Uncle Floyd, and my house. All three families made beautiful borders for their flower gardens. As you traveled around the area, you would notice a lot of families used the bumpy garden rocks in their yards.

We moved out of Greene County when I was 17 years old and relocated in northern Indiana. When we sold the farm we left the rocks behind. All the time that we had the “garden rocks”, we did not know that there was some kind of mineral inside. I became interested in rocks and minerals in about 1967. After attending a program on “Geodes” at the local rock club meeting, it didn’t take me too long to realize that what we knew as those “knobby, bumpy garden rocks” were really geodes. I also learned there could be different kinds of minerals inside the geodes. Looking in the dictionary, geodes are defined as a sphereshaped stone, usually at least partially hollow, and often lined inside with sparkling mineral crystals or concentric layers of minerals. The word geode is derived from the Latin, meaning “earthlike” rounded spheres. Some of the Indiana geodes are lined with chalcedony with nice quartz inside. Others have hematite, goethite, calcite, and millerite. Of course like other earthlike rounded shapes known as: thundereggs, some of them are solid all the way through. Those may contain milky quartz.

After I realized what we had left on the farm, I returned to Greene County and stopped at the farm. The people who purchased our farm were very friendly and invited us in to see the house. They had added on a couple of rooms to the house and it was interesting to see the old home place. While I was there I asked them if they remembered the round knobby, bumpy garden rocks that were there when they bought the place. They said yes, “there is one right here and you can have it if you so desire”, but the rest are all gone. They also said their boys had laid one in the fork of the tree and as time went on, the tree grew around the geode. About the same time, I went to Lawrence County, and my brother took me to a place where we were able to pick up a bucket full of small geodes in a short period of time. For 36 years my wife and I have been taking displays to schools. One of the displays that I have is named “Nature’s Spheres.” It consists of geodes, thundereggs, occo geode halves and emma eggs. This is one of the students’ favorite displays. We get a lot of comments from the students.



## Ancient Technologies

After having dug to a depth of 1,000 meters last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 1,000 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 1,000 years ago.

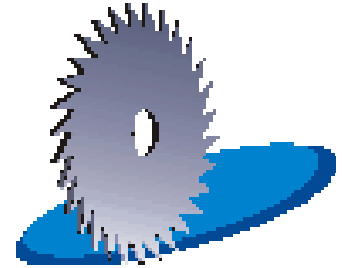
Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed, English scientists dug to a depth of 2,000 meters and shortly after headlines in the UK newspapers read: "English archaeologists have found traces of 2,000 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a thousand years earlier than the Scots."

One week later, Texas newspapers reported the following: "After digging as deep as 5,000 meters in West Texas, a joint commission of scientists from Texas A&M and the University of Texas have found absolutely nothing. They have therefore concluded that 5,000 years ago Texas inhabitants were already using wireless."

*~submitted by Larry McCauley, from the internet via Stone Chipper 02/07*



### SHOP TIPS



Hand lotion cleans grease, a hobbyist says. When sawing rocks or other greasy things he must wash his hands a lot. One day he accidentally used his wife's lotion instead of the soap dispenser, and found that the oil washed off in one application and his hands smelled like lotion instead of ALMAG! He used Jergens extra dry lotion and rinsed in plain water.

*~Author unknown from Stone Age News, 6/02, via Quarry Quips, 11/04, via Stone Chipper 2/07*

An old salt or pepper shaker can be used to apply grit to a vibra lap. Best results come from using 80-100 grit, 300-400, then 600 grit. Polish on felt or indoor-outdoor carpeting with cerium oxide, tin oxide, or other media.

Try tile polish to bring out the colors and patterns on the faces of cut rocks. Mop and Glo can also be used for higher polish.

*~Above two By Bob Hicks in Shawnee Slate 12/00, via The Rockytier 3/01, The Southwest Gem 8/04, via Stone Chipper 2/07*



## Pre-Historic Rock Tumblers?

When were the first stones collected and polished, and by whom? When, and by what method? It seems that stones are occasionally found that were tumble polished millions of years ago. Millions of years? Surely those early cavemen had no method or the knowledge needed to polish rocks! Yet the evidence exists, and is often found in areas around the world. It would be a good guess that some of our members have found, and now possess one or more rocks that were tumble polished during the early unrecorded years of our planet.

Imagine an early-day “rock-hound” plodding through ancient misty jungles, picking a few tiny bits of vegetation here and there, then wandering along a stream picking up a likely looking rock, and swallowing it! Yes, Gastroliths, the stones used by many dinosaurs, to help grind up their food! Just as chickens store bits of gravel in their crops or gizzards to help digest their food, some of the dinosaurs did also.

So our first rock hounds were not cavemen or Indians, they were dinosaurs, and the first rock tumbler was his digestive system!

By Margaret Pomerlow; via RokTok 01/07

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### Rockhound Glossary of Terms

**Geologist**—Person who learns about rocks in school.

**Rockhound**—Person who learns about rocks the hard way.

**Pebblepup**—Smart mouthed kid who knows more about rocks than you do.

**Field Trip**—Impossible trek to inaccessible places for nonexistent specimens.

**Field Polish**—Spit.

**Field Kit**—Paper bag to put specimens in.

**Station Wagon**—Vehicle designed to accommodate the colossal load of a rockhounds’ collecting.

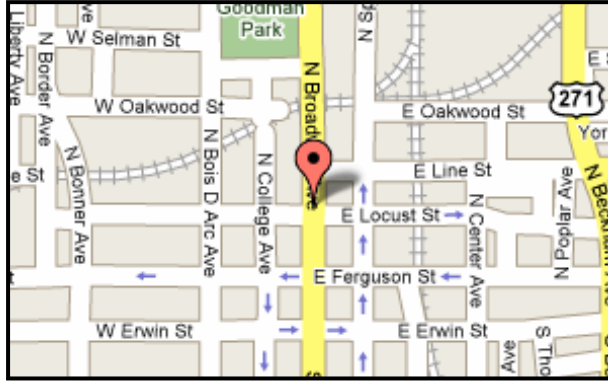
**Tumbler**—Equipment costing at least \$25 that makes \$250 worth of stones salable at \$0.25

(Information found on a bookmark from Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society – The Pioneer via Gem Times via RokTok 01/07)



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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.**

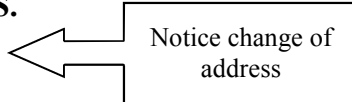
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Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

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.

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