



# ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2014

## Coming Shows, 2014

### November 01-02

Amarillo, TX  
Golden Spread G&MS  
Amarillo Civic Center  
Exhibition Hall  
◆ ◆ ◆  
Midland, TX  
Midland G&MS Midland Ctr.

### November 07-09

Humble, TX  
Houston G&MS  
Humble Civic Ctr.  
8233 Will Clayton Parkway

### November 15-16

Round Rock, TX  
Paleontological Soc. Of Austin  
Old Settlers Park Hwy 29 E

### November 22-23

Mesquite, TX  
Dallas G&MS  
Resistol Arena

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I don't know about the rest of you, but I had a great time at the October meeting. It looked like everybody in attendance was enjoying themselves. We raised a little over \$800.00 at the auction. I would like to thank the members that donated items for the auction, and Keith Harmon for being our auctioneer this year.

David Polve has volunteered to serve as our Historian for the club. We still need somebody to serve as our Fieldtrip Chairman. We are lucky that there are a few members that are willing to help plan fieldtrips until we find somebody willing to be the Fieldtrip Chairman.

I have yet to hear from any members on the new project that I will be undertaking. I will be putting together a new member's packet that contains information that new members might find useful. It will be emailed out to all members with email addresses and posted on the website in the members' only page. In order to make this a useful item for new members, I will need the help of all our members, old and new. If there are things about the club that you don't completely understand, these are probably things that should be in the packet. I want all your suggestions in writing, either email or give them to me at a meeting. I find my memory isn't working as well as it used to. I hope that everybody will take some time and help with this project, so it can be completed quickly.

The program for the November meeting will cover a brief look at setting up display cases at the January Show, and a program on the Mayflower Mill near Silverton, Colorado. The program for the December meeting will be our Christmas Gift Exchange.

Yearly membership dues were due in October, so if you haven't paid your dues please get them in as soon as possible. Kinney Polve

*Kinney Polve assists Auctioneer Keith Harmon.  
Photo contributed by David Polve.*





## OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:55 by Kinney Polve.

NO silent auction nor door prizes this week.

Penny Hawkins moved, Bill Faulkner 2nd to accept minutes as written in the September Rock N Rose.

Coleen Hayes gave the Treasurers Report

Visitors Matt Sanford & previous member Richard Armstrong were introduced.

No new members.

Terry Roberts gave the Lapidary Group update.

No lapidary group meeting on the second Saturday - instead the group will meet at Kinney's home near Henderson. Group will work on rock critters for the show. The work shop is open to all members, even juniors.

Food will be provided.

**Old Business**—None

**New Business**—David Polve will take on the position of Historian. He hopes to make the position more active. His plans are to start a yearly scrap book. Susan Burch would like more material for newsletter.

**Field trips**—Midlothian quarry trip is up in the air. We need a field trip chairman. Another trip to AR was discussed. Any interest? Roughly 10 or 11 expressed interest in a trip to Mesa to hunt Fluorite at the Berringer Hill mine. It is approximately a 4 or 5 hour trip. Becky Whisenant will get more information and get back with Kinney. Terry suggested we make a trip some time to get more material for the next show. There are still some items left from previous years.

**Programs**—December is the annual Gift Exchange. Kinney requested some ideas for November. Suggestions included a program on setting up show cases. Kinney asked if anyone was interested in doing a display case for the annual show - He stated it is an excellent opportunity to show off what the club does - lapidary, fossils, etc.

Starting in December there will be sheets provided to sign up for display cases.

Kinney will give a program if no one else will bring one.

Colleen moved to adjourn the business meeting, David Polve second. Business meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Following a break, the annual auction was the October program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzan Chapman

**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## OCTOBER 11 ROCK CRITTER WORKSHOP

We had 12 members that attended the workshop we held on October 11th. That was a pretty good turnout, but I was hoping for a few more. There were a lot of critters made, and it seemed that there might have been a competition on who was making the cutest one. Vicky Polve said the critters started out kind of simple, but after a while they started to get more elaborate. Of course we could have made more if it wasn't for the tours through my shop, showing off my equipment and the clubs equipment that's stored here. Oh, and let's not forget lunch, everybody was ready for a break when the dinner bell rang. We did take some time out to look at rocks. That's kind of a rule at my house, you have to look at rocks. A bunch of us gathered out in my Lost Agate Mine, and we even broke out the fluorescent light for a little while. A few members found some to take home. And as usual there was a lot of laughing and cutting up, so you know we had a good time. The next show workshop will be held on January 3rd, at Whitehouse, if we can reserve the location. So mark your calendars. Kinney Polve



Attending the workshop were Genva and Terry Roberts, Linda and Richard Carter, Colleen Hayes, Penny Hawkins, Pete Keiser and Jack Shull. Vicky, Kinney and David Polve and Susan Burch are not pictured.



## NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

Becky Whisenant has organized a fieldtrip to Ash Grove Cement Plant located at 900 Gifco Road, Midlothian, Texas. At 8:30 AM on November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will meet at the overflow parking lot, where we will be briefed, then go to the collecting area. Material that can be found here are pyrite clusters, small shells with pyrite clustered on them, a fossil fish, shark teeth, small ammonites and other odds and ends. Becky found a small ammonite (1-1/2") but it had tiny pyrite cubes in the open end - very beautiful. And she also said, sometimes you can find dark reddish pyrite "balls" which are pretty cool, too. Everybody attending will need to sign two release forms. There is always a possibility that the fieldtrip may be canceled due to rain, because of the type of mud in the collecting area. Any member interested in going on this fieldtrip needs to contact Becky or me as soon as possible, so we can get a count on how many will attend, and let them know.



I am emailing the two release forms and a map of the plant to members wishing to attend. You can bring them with you when we meet at the plant. Kinney Polve



## TALES FOR THE ARMCHAIR ROCK HOUND – VOL. I

By Becky Whisenant

### Acquiring Amazonite

John Denver wrote a hugely popular song in the 1970s called Rocky Mountain High which drew the attention of people everywhere to the mountains of Colorado. The lyrics speak of forests, streams, silver clouds, flying eagles and adjusting your priorities in life. But what is not mentioned is the very rocks the mountains themselves are made of. Not very many people think of actual rocks when they hear that song but I do, and if you're reading this, you probably do, too.

There is an area approximately 25 miles west of Colorado Springs that John Denver most certainly visited or hang glided over but I didn't look up very much when I was there two months ago. It's called Crystal Peak and for a good reason.

The owners of Self A Ware Minerals, Jeff Self and Donna Ware, occasionally allow certain gem and mineral clubs to schedule a field trip to their amazonite mine located in this area. While mining is a full time occupation for Jeff and Donna, they are true rock hounds at heart and could not have been more welcoming and friendly. Their claims include one on Mt. Antero where phenakite and aquamarines are found, a topaz claim near Pilot Peak and their claim in the Crystal Peak area which yields amazonite, smoky quartz and fluorite. Jeff and Donna have some of their best specimens on loan to the Colorado School of Mines Mineral Museum in Golden, Colorado.

Towards the end of June, an estimated 25 to 30 people from the Albuquerque club were invited to do some prospecting at Jeff and Donna's amazonite claim, an opportunity in which I was privileged to participate. Even though I resemble the quote, "The worst day in the field is better than the best day sitting at home watching television," this was by no means a bad day in the field. In fact it was quite a wonderful day.

The access road to the mountain top was quite interesting—a little tight between the pine trees—but the view included three and four contoured layers of horizon in fading shades of greens and blues. The home stretch to the parking area was a stimulating little steep spot at which each vehicle in the caravan paused, shifted to 4WD or low and took their best shot. Gun it, guide it, ride the bumps and dodge the boulder up top in the sharp curve and you're there.

Do you ever dream of rocks where you look around and they are just laying there waiting for you to bend over and pick them up? Technically, rocks weren't necessarily everywhere that day, but it was still like a good dream. Casting your eyes up, out and around, the view was something you wanted to tuck away in your memory for getting old. Casting your eyes down to the ground made the heart race and the fingers itch to pick up all the little pieces of color.



Amazon specimen collected by Becky Whisenant, set upon a stand of quartz crystals. Photo by Susan Burch.



*The stalwart group of amazonite collectors. Photo by Becky Whisenant.*

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I and my East Texas compadres, husband Charles and buddies Pete and Colleen, created a network of footsteps that day under the pine trees on top of the peak, stopping for lunch only after getting light headed when bending over to pick up a stack. We busted, flipped over, picked up and searched for rocks to the sound of clinking hammers, barking dogs, opening and closing truck doors and snatches of conversation near and far. Now that's a good day in the field.

In the late afternoon we hiked down the hillside and joined a digging group of hounds huddled, kneeling or sitting cross-legged around a set of various sized holes. We were nicely offered a dirt pile or small pit under the roots and our choice of a selection of unearthed community property crystals. The result was wonderfully filthy pants and fingernails, pockets full of crystal bits and newly forged friendships with persons we were most likely to meet again only under similar circumstances. Back home, when I sweep the front porch around a carefully sorted pile of the most recently acquired specimens, I can still smell the dust, the pine straw and mountain juniper from that day and see the sunset we photographed on our trip back down to civilization.

*Pictured at left, Colleen Hayes and Pete Keiser. Photo by Becky Whisenant*



### HOPE

**By: Noelle Skubal, age 13, Member of the Houston Gem & Min. Soc.  
Noelle won 1st place in the SCFMS Poetry Contest.**

The hum of the crowd in my ears,  
Drifting in controlled chaos  
Toward a petite glass box.  
Within the glass there lies  
A deep blue gem with snowy eyes.  
Gazing at the stone I see  
A lady not much taller than me.  
Perhaps wishing for a jewel  
Where all the light seems to pool.  
Two children side-by-side  
Gape at it with wonder-filled eyes.  
I turn my gaze to the dazzling star of the show,  
Attended like a queen by sixteen Ladies-in-waiting.  
Were kings and queens of olde  
Adorned by this treasures of blue?  
Did empires die for the majesty  
Of this diamond of sapphire hue?  
There are none who can say, anymore,  
None but Hope, sitting forever  
Abound with mystery in her beautiful allure.





## MINING FOR THE ROCKS

by: Jackson Skubal, age 11

Member of the Houston Gem & Min. Soc.

Jackson took 2nd Place in the SCFMS Poetry Contest.

Pick at a rock, dig up a rock  
 Searching for gems with eyes like a hawk  
 Quartz here, and a bit of marble there  
 Rocks, rocks, rocks are everywhere  
 Suddenly, I dug up a magnificent sapphire  
 Its color was that of a dying fire  
 The corundum had a star when it saw the light  
 The crimson stone was a very pretty sight  
 I dug up a ruby, bright and red  
 It was heavy as a weight of lead  
 I found an emerald, clear as glass  
 Standing out prettier than a peacock wrasse  
 I chipped out some mica, flat as paper  
 It was rusted as green as a caper  
 As I dug, something caught my eye  
 A piece of topaz as clear as the sky  
 I noticed a shiny, black hue  
 I had found a spot where diamonds grew  
 I located a fossil, on a plate  
 Sitting next to a piece of agate  
 The time came to return to our abode  
 When my father said: "You've got quite a load!"  
 I just smiled and got in the car  
 To start the trip home, it would be very far  
 I stared at my rocks, I was proud of myself  
 I could not wait to put them on the shelf



*Just a little more about Jackson and Noelle. They are not new at winning in the Junior division of the bulletin contests. Jackson's Junior Article won first place in the 2013 SCFMS Contest. Noelle won the 2011 - Junior Article and in 2010 she took first place in Junior Poem Contest.*

*Linda Jaeger, the AFMS Bulletin Editor's Aids Chairperson said about Noelle's article, "An Ode to Back Benders" (which won in 2011) "It's my very favorite poem to be submitted for the Junior Poetry division."*

*I hope that the parents and clubs will encourage our FUTURE ROCK-HOUNDS to write articles for their club newsletters. Junior Members, keep up the GOOD work you are doing. Via the SCFMS Sept./Oct. Newsletter.*

—To all our junior members, please submit a poem, article or drawing that tells a little about what you enjoy about rocks, gems, fossils or anything included in our hobby. Susan Burch



## PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN ANNUAL FOSSIL SHOW

The Paleontological Society of Austin is sponsoring our 24<sup>th</sup> annual fossil show – Fossil Fest at Old Settlers Association Headquarters, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd., in Round Rock, TX next to the Dell Diamond on November 15 & 16, 2014. This year's theme is: Ice Age Texas – 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 Wheel of Fossils, a fossil Dig Pit and dealers from around the country selling fossils and fossil related material from around the world. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and children under 6 are free.

Visit us online at: [www.austinpaleo.org/fest](http://www.austinpaleo.org/fest) or contact the Show Chair at [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org) for more information.



*Cambrian Era trilobites courtesy the Smithsonian Institute.*



## BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

### SOURCE FOR PLASTIC

We often use plastic in our studios, like for a single part die or for a template. So it's handy to have a small supply along with the rest of your sheet, wire, copper and bronze. But we seldom think to buy and stock any plastic.

The plastics store I go to has a scrap bin out back where they give away small pieces and scraps. I usually opt for the 3/8 and 1/2 inch thicknesses for use as forming dies, but there's always a variety of sizes and colors to choose from including thin sheets that are good for templates.

You can find a shop with Google or the Yellow Pages. Next time you go to your local shop, it's worth asking to see if they have a scrap bin.

### SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding those various little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I go back and forth to classes and workshops. My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free.

The vials are used in hospitals and doctor's offices to draw blood samples. They must be thrown out after their expiration date. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She tried to give me 400 of them. We settled on 200.



The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably other brand names. They are sterile and made of clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

Also shown are some other handy containers - pill bottles, the old 35mm film cans, and metal breath mint boxes.

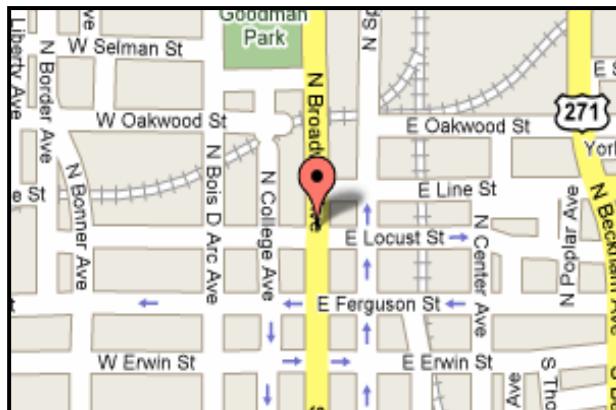
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Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Note: If you distribute your newsletter electronically, I'd appreciate the above title of the book to be a live link to <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

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**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, \$2.50 for juniors, or \$20 for a Family.

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 at the address or email listed below 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, as this is the best way to reach me. Thank you... Susan Burch



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