



# ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1 VOLUME 40 TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2014

## CONGRATULATIONS!! To our Authors and Editor

**Becky Whisenant**  
SCFMS—4th - Features

**Terry Roberts**  
SCFMS —HM - Features

**Kinney Polve**  
AFMS—3rd - Adult Poetry  
SCFMS—2nd - Adult Poetry  
HM - Features

**Bill Faulkner**  
SCFMS —5th - Website Contest

**Carolyn Davis**  
SCFMS—HM - Features

**Suzan Chapman**  
SCFMS—HM - Features

**Don Campbell**  
SCFMS—HM - Features

**Susan Burch**  
AFMS—5th - Small Bulletins  
4th- Adult Poetry

SCFMS—5th - Features  
1st - Adult Poetry  
1st - Small Bulletins

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Looks like my Rock Fever is under control for the moment. I guess a couple of weeks up in Colorado and Utah, and a truck load of rock has done the trick. Had a little problem with the generator, and had to come back a little earlier than expected. And before you say that I’m a wuss, remember this is the 21th century. Where would I be without micro-waved popcorn? All in all we had a great trip. We collected a lot of Rhodonite, Sowbelly Agate, mine minerals and misc. agate.

It looked like Keith had a good turnout for his Annual Rock Sale. And he must have done pretty well, because when I left my pockets were empty. Of course my truck was full.

Election of Club Officers is over with, and a lot of us will be serving another term. We still have a few positions to fill for those of you that missed out on one of the offices. We need people to serve as our club Historian, Program Chairman and Fieldtrip Chairman. I want to remind all of our members that our club cannot function without the members stepping up and volunteering to fill the needs of the club. Whether you have served in the past or not. It takes a lot of time and effort on my part trying to find people to fill these positions, when somebody could answer the call and fill the need. This time could be better spent in other areas serving the needs of the club.

There is a new project that I will be undertaking, after talking to some of our members at the last meeting. We 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.

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order on September 8, 2014, at 6:50 p.m. by President Kinney Polve.

New members were recognized.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Susan Chapman made the motion and it was seconded by Terry Roberts.

Bill Faulkner gave the treasurer's report.

Membership dues are due by October which is the beginning of the club's new year.

It was announced that door prizes and a silent auction item would be awarded at the end of the business meeting.

**Lapidary Sub Group:** Terry Roberts announced that the lapidary arts group would meet Saturday, September 13th. The meeting will be at 2 p.m. at Terry's home. Members that are 14 years of age or older are welcome to attend. They will practice wire wrapping. Plans are being made to make critters in October to be used at the annual gem and mineral show. Younger members are encouraged to attend that meeting.

**Field Trips:** A chairman for this group is needed. At this time several members will assist until a volunteer steps up.

**Newsletter:** Susan creates a terrific newsletter but she would like some help. Pictures and articles are needed from the membership.

**Old Business:** Susan presented awards from the South Central Federation Convention that she and Kinney attended. Many people were surprised to receive awards from articles Susan had submitted. For a club of our size we were well represented at the awards portion of the meeting.

The progress on the 501 3C status has been looked into. The information received was that progress is always very slow. It could take up to a year.

**New Business:** Election of officers began with the presentation of names nominated by the Board. The floor was opened for nominations. A motion to elect the nominations from the board by acclamation was made by Susan Chapman and seconded by Pete Keiser. The new officers are President - Kinney Polve; Vice President - Terry Roberts; Secretary - Carolyn Davis; Treasurer - Colleen Hayes.

Nominations were opened to elect two Board Members. Judith Burleson and Penny Hawkins were elected to fill these positions.

Appointed positions are: Keith Harmon - Show Chairman, Susan Burch - Newsletter Editor, Susan Burch and Michael Howe - Web Masters. Positions that need to be filled are Field Trip chairman and Membership Chairman.

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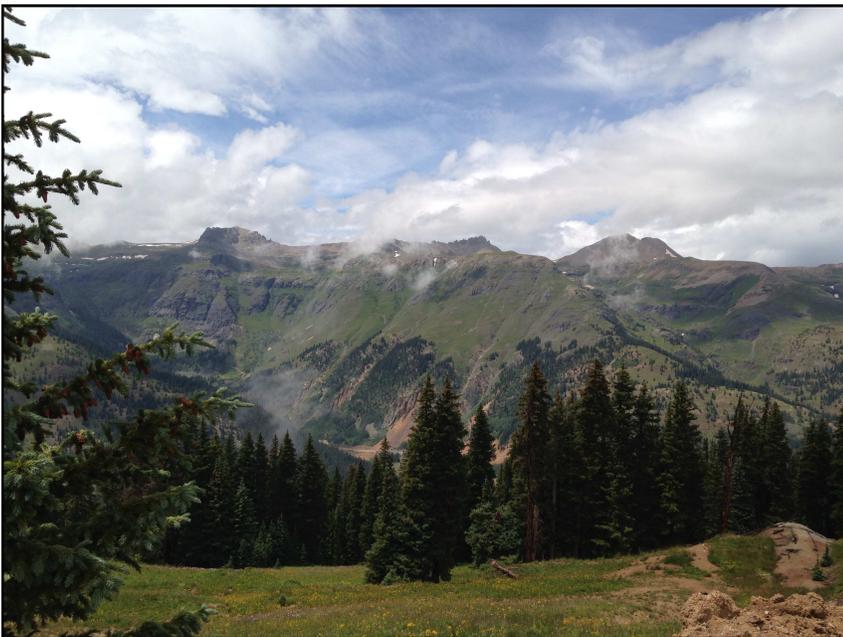
## Wayward Rockhounding Trip

After a busy week and weekend, filled with a club meeting and SCFMS Convection, it was time for a welcomed break. With Texas September temperatures heading toward the 100 degree mark, my compass was pointing to the northwest and higher elevations. With the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel hooked up and loaded for a long journey. My life partner / rockhounding buddy and I loaded up and we hit the road. The plan was to head toward Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, stopping along the way. The first planned stop was the area around Silverton, Colorado. Rhodonite was the treasure I planned to find at this location, and I say that loosely. If there is one thing I have learned in my years of travel, it is never set my plans in stone. That means never making reservations unless I am certain that I will not be rushed to get there. As we all know, "What can go wrong, will go wrong". This was one of those trips.



Let me get back on track, we finally arrived in Silverton. After setting up camp we headed to the BLM Office (Bureau of Land Management). This is one of the best places to get information on an area, and to put a wrinkle in the best laid plans. I say this because it always seems that I'll find out about something else of interest in the area. And this was the case at the Silverton BLM Office. Armed with this new information, we decided to check out the Silverton Museum. At first glance the Silverton Museum doesn't look

like much, but as they say, you can't judge a book by its cover. They have an excellent mineral display, along with a lot of history on mining in the area. Well here comes another wrinkle. The Silverton area is also an off roader's paradise, with the Alpine Loop and hundreds of Jeep trails.



Well back on track, Rhodonite. With mine dumps located all over the area, we decided to go to the Sunnyside Mine. The Sunnyside Mine was one of the largest and longest running

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operations in this area, and a well-known collecting location for Rhodonite. The road leading to Sunnyside goes through the old town site of Eureka, which has a fascinating history of its own. From this point the road requires a 4 wheel drive vehicle. Once at the mine, it wasn't long before we were finding our prize. But that wasn't all, there was Chalcopyrite, Quartz Crystals and other nice mineral specimens. The area all around the Sunnyside Mine is a great place to find Rhodonite, but you are going to have to break a lot of rocks.

Next was a trip to the Old Mayflower Mill. The Mayflower Mill was in operation for 61 years, until it closer in 1991. You can now take guided or self-guided tours through the mill. The San Juan County Historical Society is preserving this site for future generations. We took a self-guided tour through the mill, and even got to operate a few pieces of equipment. It wasn't too difficult to in vision the mill in operation. After visiting the mill, we just had to drive up to the old Mayflower Mine. I recommend 4 wheel drive for this trip too. The road to the mine is steep with a lot of switchbacks. On the drive up we could see what was left of the old tram bucket line and the towers that it rested on. All that remains of the mine is a large mine dump of waste rock, old rusty rails, and pieces of old mining equipment. The shaft has been concreted in with what would appear to be a tombstone. It reads Mayflower Mine 9/21/1973. If you ever get a chance to visit this area, take it. We really did find the treasure while we were here, it was the beautiful scenery, and the peacefulness of the mountains and streams. And just a little advice from a wayward Rockhound, leave some extra time in your plans for the unexpected.

Kinney Polve





**SHRINKWOOD BOLO SLIDE**



Here is a picture of a shrink wood bolo slide that I wire wrapped for a friend in Corpus Christi. In the process, I found out that dead soft Argentium sterling silver work hardens much faster than dead soft gold-filled wire. This presented a problem when I started spiraling the wire around a dowel rod. I could not control the wire as much as I would have liked to and I could not get a tight wrap with the end of the wire either for fear of it breaking (which is what happened to the hardwood dowel rod). I hope you like them. Terry Roberts



**CORRECTION:**

In a previous issue of the Rock N Rose the Austin Gem & Mineral Soc. Show was incorrectly listed. The correct dates for the show are October 3-5, 2014. The show will be at the Palmer Event Center in Austin, Texas.



**DUES ARE DUE!**

It's that time of year again, time to renew your membership in the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society. Please, take a few minutes and send in your dues with a copy of the completed form below to the club address listed on the back page of this newsletter.

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



## LAPIDARY SUB-GROUP

By Terry Roberts

Thirteen members and two guests attended the September meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group meeting on the home of Terry Roberts on September 13. Terry invited all to gather around a table where he had laid out a bucketful of slabs for them to pick through and take home. Kinney also brought several slabs to add to the pile. Everyone had a great time going through the slabs to find the treasure they couldn't live without. The group then gathered inside the house, except for Mitch who worked on making several cabs using Terry's cab machine.

Terry showed the group a bolo slide that he had wire wrapped for a friend using Argentium sterling silver around a shrink wood slab. This is a beautiful slab of petrified wood with the outside surface that is checkered due to shrinkage before it becomes petrified (at least that is the theory). It resembles the pattern seen on a giraffe's skin. The silver wire that is normally made into a bail for a pendant is spiraled around a dowel rod on the back of the slab to hold the bolo cord in place around the neck.

Terry then started teaching a new member how to wire wrap pendants. He will complete the lesson at a later meeting. While Terry was teaching, Bill Faulkner started wrapping a beautiful amethyst crystal slab that came from a geode with several of the group members watching his progress. He was unable to finish the pendant before the end of the meeting and will complete it later. The meeting adjourned around 4:30 pm. The next meeting will be held in Whitehouse on October 11 at a location to be determined later. Kinney wanted to let the group help make rock critters at this meeting for our annual gem and mineral show in January.



### BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

**SOLVENT DISPENSER**—Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like an alcohol lamp or one of the nail polish bottles that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes can't be too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents you frequently use. It has a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop.

There are many suppliers on Google. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at [www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com) The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 ML US\$ 5.35

\* Please use the following attribution with each publication: Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

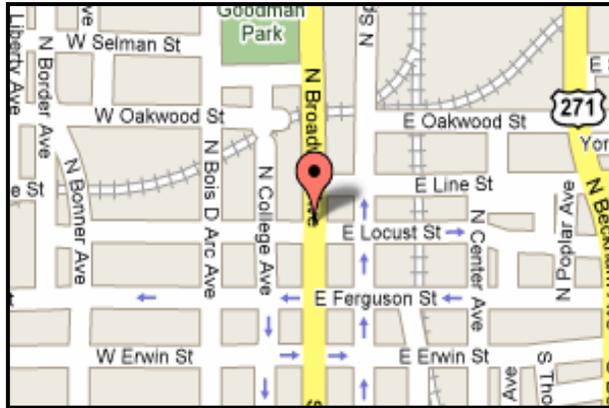


Note: If you distribute your newsletter electronically, I'd appreciate the above title of the book to be a live link to <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>



### CLUB OFFICERS

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<b>CLUB ADDRESS FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES:</b>	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.

### 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.

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, as this is the best way to reach me. Thank you... SB



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