



ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1

VOLUME 43

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2017

Coming Shows, 2017

AUGUST 19-20, 2017
BOSSIER CITY, LA
ARKLATEX G & M SOC.
BOSSIER CITY CIVIC CTR.

AUGUST 26-27, 2017
JASPER, TEXAS
PINE COUNTRY GMS
THE EVENT CENTER

OCTOBER 14-15, 2017
TEMPLE, TX
TRI-CITY G & M SOC.
FRANK W MAYBORN
CIVIC & CONVEN. CTR.

OCTOBER 14-15, 2017
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
COWTOWN GMGC
CORPORATE EMPLOYEES
RECREATION ASSOC.
3300 BRYANT IRVIN ROAD

OCTOBER 20-22, 2017
AUSTIN, TX
AUSTIN G & M SOC.
PALMER EVENTS CTR.

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2017
ODESSA, TX
MIDLAND G & M SOC.
ECTOR CO. COLISEUM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. August Meeting Minutes
3. Lapidary — Jewelry Group
4. Mineralogical Group / Help Wanted
5. July Field Trip
6. June Field Trip
7. June Field Trip / Cab of the Month
8. Silver Smithing Photos / A Pile of Rocks Poem
9. Bench Tips by Brad Smith
10. Officers and Directions

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great time on the Selenite field trip, and we brought a lot of good material back with us. Some of the pieces I think will be good for the silent auction. Kelly Ford is still taking ideas for a field trip in September, she gave a short presentation at the meeting with some suggestions for the next couple of months so please give her your feedback and ideas. If you missed the August meeting you missed a great program on Indian artifacts and arrowheads presented by Gene Goar. The program for September will be presented by Terry Roberts on Agates, he has a video from the "Agate Man" Sir Paul Howard from Australia. Also in September, we will have the annual election of new officers, so everyone try to attend.

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the monthly meeting will be held on September 11th, so make a note on your calendars.

October looks to be a busy month, with Keith Harmon's Rock Sale, our annual club auction, and a Critter Workshop. We always have a lot of fun making critters for our January show. This year I want to encourage the parents of our junior members to try to attend. This is one activity that they will really enjoy. We will need help loading up all the show supplies in our cargo trailer. The more hands that volunteer to help, the less work for everyone. Also, a reminder to everyone that membership dues are due in October.

See you on September 11th,

Fred Mahaffey



JUST A REMINDER,

If you have items for the club auction coming up in a couple of months you can start bringing them any-time. Remember, this is one of our biggest fundraisers for the club and you can invite folks to come visit and bid on some cool stuff.

**If you have any questions please let me know!
Fred**



AUGUST ETGMS MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:45 P.M. on August 7, 2017. President Fred Mahaffey mentioned how glad he was to see members of Boy Scout Troop 333 and their Leaders and parents in attendance. There were 25 visitors and guests in all. There was also one membership renewal. Fred asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion and Vice-President Rip Criss seconded. Fred then gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that there is an ongoing search for a building but the real desire is that someone will donate land that a building can be put on.

Upcoming events:

* Lapidary Group – Saturday, August 12 at Terry Roberts' house at 2 P.M. It will be an open forum and show and tell if there are completed projects or if someone has a question about how to work a project.

* Mineral Group – Tuesday, August 8 at Kelly Ford's house at 6 P.M. The meeting is paired with the last field trip which was Selenite and petrified wood. You are encouraged to bring something you found.

* Fossil Group – This group still needs a leader and a separate meeting from Minerals.

* Fred asked Kelly to give an overview of the last field trip. Eleven members went to a site near Elkhart, TX in search of selenite crystals. There were some beauties displayed on the sign-in table. She said that the selenite is delicate and hard to dig up in large chunks. More often, pieces are pulled out, but they can be re-formed to their original stars. They also went to the Trinity River in search of clam shells and petrified wood. Kelly also presented a list of tentative trips for the remainder of the year:

August 19 to Oliver Creek, Justin, TX in search of fossils.

September 23 to Lindsay Ranch, Mason, TX in search of topaz.

October 28 to Stillwell Ranch, Alpine, TX in search of agate and jasper.

November 18 to Ladonia Fossil Park, Ladonia, TX in search of fossils and artifacts.

Old business:

* Kinney stated that the suggestion of a sandwich-board sign had been made but not voted on. Kinney made the motion for its purchase and Darby Spears seconded.

New business:

* The election of officers will be held at the September 11 meeting. (September 4 is Labor Day.) Nominations are requested.

* October is the month of the annual Club Auction/Fund Raiser so begin deciding what you would like to contribute.

* We are currently without a Treasurer.

Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Kinney made the motion and Mike Goebel seconded.

There were more than 20 door prize tickets drawn and most went to the visiting Scouts. There was a short break for refreshments, visiting, and looking over the tables of arrowheads and Indian artifacts that Gene Goar brought in for his presentation of the program. There were also two silent auction items – a faceted (by Vicky Polve) pale blue topaz and a cabochon. The program began at 7:35 P.M. and ended about 8:15 P.M. It was a great program for unexpected visiting scouts.

Submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary





LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP

The Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at the home of Terry Roberts on August 12 with eight members and one visitor in attendance. Elsa Jerger brought some examples of necklaces that she knitted and adorned with beads. Terry showed some of the cabs that he recently completed, as well as a rock from West Texas that consisted of pseudo-morph replacement of calcite crystals in the shape of cubes and plates with chalcedony surrounding the exterior of the crystals. The calcite had later dissolved leaving the chalcedony skeleton with empty interiors.

Mitch Young demonstrated a method to bring a brilliant shine to any cab that cannot be polished by the usual method of using successively finer grits to smooth the exterior to a bright shine. He used a jeweler's-grade of epoxy to coat the cab while it was mounted on a dop stick. This allowed the cab to be stored upright on a styrofoam sheet until the epoxy dried in about 4-7 days. Picture at right shows the bottles of the resin (Part A) and hardener (Part B) that he obtained off the web. Below at left, the application of the epoxy is shown using a soft brush. Middle photo shows what the cab looks like when half of the surface is covered. Bottom left photo shows what the cabs look like once the epoxy is fully applied. He cautioned everyone to be sure the surface

of the cabs are very clean and dry, otherwise the epoxy may show bubbles or raised spots where oil or some moisture remained on the cab. Also, it is important to store the cabs in a dry location where dust will not settle on the surface and the fumes from the drying epoxy will not invade the rest of the house if stored there.



He answered many questions from the members on the process and how to purchase the bottles of epoxy, as well as possible remedies for mistakes in applying the epoxy or handling the cabs before the epoxy is fully cured.

After the demonstration, Terry led the group outside where they could sort through some slabs he had set out for them from his private collection. Everyone appeared to have had a good time when they left.

The September meeting of the L/J Group will be held at the workshop of Kinney Polve starting at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 9.





MINERALOGICAL GROUP

The ETGMS Mineralogical Group met on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at the home of Kelly Ford. There were eight members in attendance for the meeting. The meeting began with food and fellowship.

The meeting then proceeded with a very informative presentation on Selenite by our very own Jack Shaw. Mr. Shaw provided a variety of selenite specimens and incorporated a lecture entitled the Cave of Crystals by Professor Michael E. Wysession.

Ms. Shaw then gave a presentation on the Geological Timeline. After discussing the timeline, we watched a lecture entitled The Vast Depths of Earth Time by Professor Stuart Sutherland, Ph. D. to gain more relativity into this enormous amount of time involved.

The presentations were very well received and additional interest was voiced in continuing our pursuit of knowledge in the broad topic of the geological timeline.

Our next meeting will be held at the Law Office of Amy Long on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. (as Ms. Ford will be collecting agates in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.) More information to come on the agenda for that meeting.

Kelly Ford



As a past President, I know the importance of volunteers in our organization, yes, I did say our organization. The reason that I bring this important fact to light this month is that the club will be electing our new officers for the 2017 / 2018 year, at our monthly meeting on September 11. We do have some members that step up and volunteer, when they see a need. Then we have some members that step up when a need is mentioned to the group. Then there are

those that step up when directly asked. And there are those members that never have the time to volunteer, whether they see a need, or are even asked directly, they just never

make the time to serve. It's not funny that the same members can find time to take part in the activities

that the club has to offer, but never have the time to help organize these activities. I can tell you from my experience that many of our members have no idea how our club operates, or what we're involved in as an organization. I have always said, "If you want to get more out of the club, get more involved." For those members that volunteer, they know the truth in what I'm saying. I've heard members say, I've served in the past, and I say that I appreciate all those of you that have served, but that doesn't mean that you can sit back and coast. If we all take that attitude, it wouldn't be long, and the club would have nobody with the experience and knowledge to keep us going. Right now, there are very few of us that understand, and have the knowledge of the inner workings of the club, not because we want it that way, but because our members have caused it to be that way.

You have put such a high demand on a very few of our members, that if we lose only a few the club's active members, we will be in trouble. I know that a lot of us are retired, and we don't want to be tied down to a schedule, I feel exactly the same way. Maybe you just don't feel that you are experienced enough to be an officer, but if you feel the desire, talk to the person serving in that office, and find out what is involved. We always have a great group to help out those members that are new to an office. As a final note, make time to attend the September meeting, and vote for the people that you want to lead us for the next year.

Kinney Polve





ETGMS FIELD TRIP JULY 2017

Whether your goal was to collect Selenite specimens or just enjoy the dig I would have to say our field trip was a success! Eleven ETGMS members met on Saturday, July 22, 2017, and caravanned to the dig site near Elkhart, TX. The Selenite were plentiful. Many perfect crystals were found as well as crystal clusters ranging in size from approximately two to eight inches in diameter. Some were found on the surface, others were discovered a bit deeper.

After the group gathered enough Selenite, we progressed to a location along the Trinity River. The landscape was beautiful. Even though we didn't find any mastodon or mammoth fossils... we did find some inoceramus (clam shells) and a bit of petrified wood.

Some of the group concluded the trip with a great meal at El Toro Mexican Restaurant in Palestine, TX.

Kelly Ford



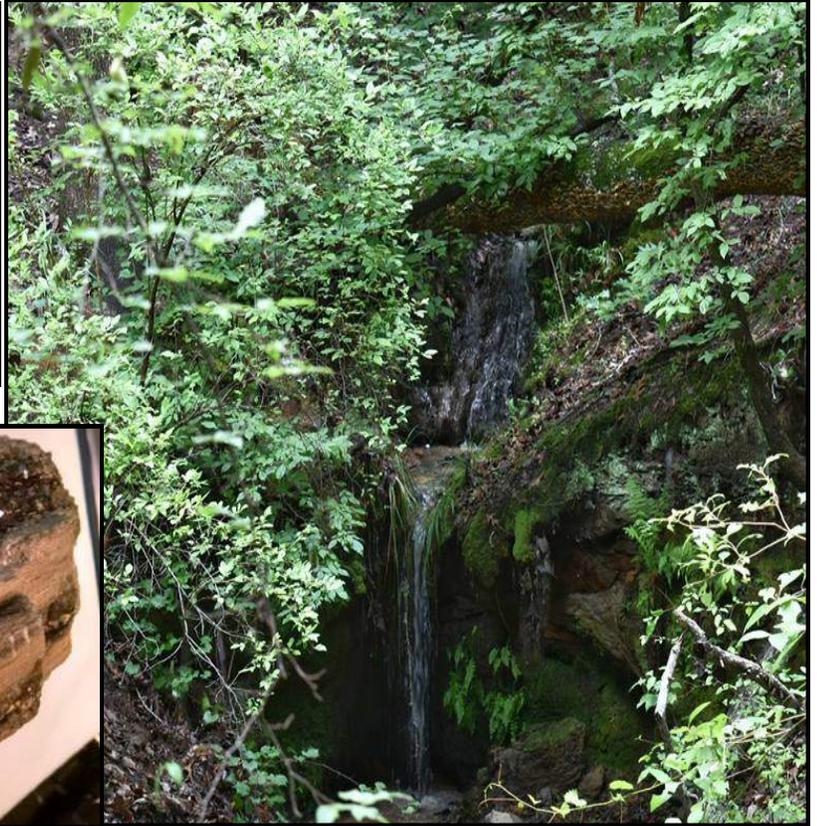


PHOTOS FROM THE JUNE PETRIFIED WOOD FIELD TRIP NEAR KINNEY AND VICKI POLVE'S





Here are more photos to enjoy. The June petrified wood field trip to Kinney and Vicky Polve’s property near Henderson, TX was a great success. Beautiful petrified wood, some with crystals were found along with gorgeous scenery. Thank you to Kinney and Vicky Polve for hosting the group and for the cookout enjoyed by all. Find even more photos on our Facebook page.



Cab of the Month

Hi Folks: While I was cleaning and sorting through a pile of rocks that I had piled next to my shop, I came across a partial nodule that showed promise in providing me with some plume slabs. The pile of rocks mostly came from the Walker Ranch which is located about 18 miles south of Alpine in west Texas. As it turned out, I could only get one slab from the nodule and it took a while to shape it and grind it down to remove surface imperfections, etc. When I finally finished it I thought you guys would like to see it. As usual with this type of agate, it looks better when seen with light transmitted through it than with light reflected off its surface.
Terry Roberts





A Jerry Beare and Trish Hamilton show happy faces, having just completed the Beginners Silversmithing class by Kinney Polve. And it's not hard to tell by their pendants, they did a great job.

A PILE OF ROCKS
By Mary Owens

Do you realize that a rock pile
Is something that'll ne'er go out of style?
Picture a mountain, a pile of rocks.
Picture an island, a pile of rocks.
What makes a gully not wash away?
A big pile of rocks will make it stay.
What happens when you make some land clear?
A pile of rocks will quickly appear.
Just give a bunch of rocks to a child.
Soon, he will have them in a nice pile.
And, just in case you'll see none around,
Look a bit further, a pile'll be found.



There is no news from the American Federation of Mineral Societies nor the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies to include in this month's issue.



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

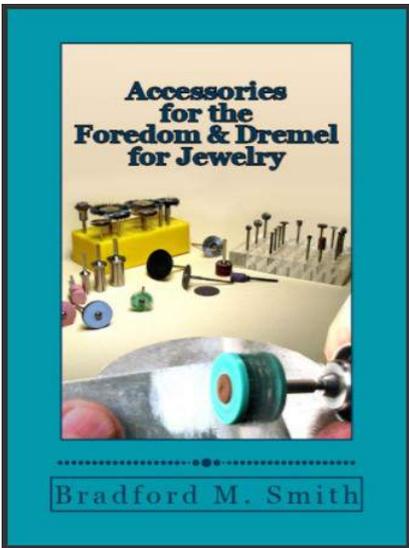
JUST A DROP—Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube let's you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.



NEW BOOK ON FOREDOM TOOL BITS—Confused by all the tool bits available for your flexible shaft or hand-held motor tool? "Accessories for the Foredom and Dremel" explains what each is good for, which ones save the most time, and the tool bits that best improve the quality of your work. Also included are bench tips for getting good results and cautions for safe use.

The book is available on Amazon at amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/

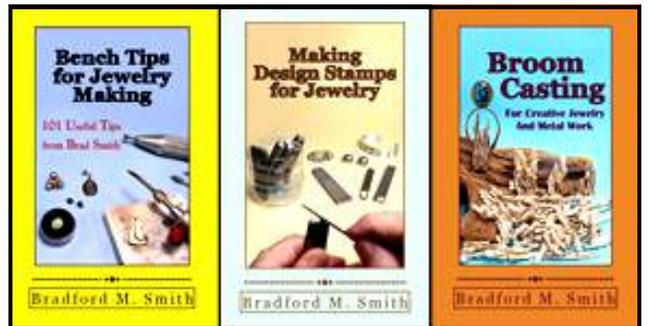


FOREDOM MAINTENANCE—If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to do almost anything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and hand piece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. You can watch the videos at www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx particularly under "Foredom Basics" or the "Foredom Shafting..." categories. Any repair parts needed are available on the Foredom site or from most jewelry supply catalogs.

Please include the following attribution with each publication:

See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith





Check us out on the web: WWW.ETGMS.COM

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society: Is to promote the study of geology, fossils and the lapidary arts. The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

MONTHLY MEETING:

First Monday of the month unless a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place
308 N. Broadway
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

- Adults: \$10.00
- Juniors: \$2.50 with adult membership
- Family: \$20

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NEWSLETTER CONTENT: 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 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. Keep in mind some photos or graphics may be chosen from the Internet. Susan Burch

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:
903-978-0268

Fred Mahaffey
1637 CR 1306
Rusk, TX 75785

SHOW CHAIRMAN:
903-795-3860

Keith Harmon
9116 US HWY 84 W
Rusk, TX 75785

WEBMASTER:
310-714-0136

Lynn Metcalf
9120 Mint Ave.
Frankston, TX 75763
lcmetcalf@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:
903-928-2860

Robert (Rip) Criss
16399 N. US Hwy 287
Tennessee Colony, TX 75861

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMEN:
903-647-0878

Kelly Ford
PO BOX 156
Arp, TX 75750
kellyjeanford@gmail.com
Darby Spears
PO BOX 131934
Tyler, TX 75713
darbvofbrightmoon@gmail.com

CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES:

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
P. O. BOX 132532
Tyler, TX 75713-2532

TREASURER:

SECRETARY:
903-882-5809

Julia Toombs
317 Rustic
Hideaway, TX 75771

Or
903-330-6741



EDITOR: Susan Burch
10911 Holly Springs Dr.
Houston, TX 77042

E-Mail: rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com
Phone: 936-615-5397