



ROCK ~N~ ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 43

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2017

Upcoming Shows

JAN 20-21, 2018
FREDERICKSBURG ROCK-
HOUNDS
PIONEER PAVILION, LADY
BIRD JOHNSON PK.
FREDERICKSBURG, TX

JANUARY 26-28, 2018
EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY
TYLER ROSE GARDEN CTR.
TYLER, TX

JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 10
TUCSON SHOWS
TUCSON, AZ

FEBRUARY 24-25
CLEAR LAKE GEM & MIN-
ERAL SOCIETY
PASADENA CONVENTION
CENTER
PASADENA, TX

MARCH 3-4, 2018
GULF COAST G & M SOC.
RICHARD M. BORCHARD RE-
GIONAL FAIRGROUNDS
ROBSTOWN, TX

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Everyone that was able to make the December meeting/Christmas party had a good time and there were many members out that were missed. It was a great way to end a fantastic year. We have lost some good friends but, we have also made some new ones. I would like to personally challenge each of you to bring a new friend or acquaintance to each meeting next year. I was thinking about how to make the club better for you and all the rest of the club. And I realized I do not have the answer to that question. But, you do! It is about making field trip suggestions and helping the field trip chairperson plan trips if you have connections or experience with certain areas. It is about you giving a presentation during one of the meetings on your passion whether it is fossils, lapidary arts, minerals, or maybe sharing with the group pictures and examples of items found on your last field trip. I want to make your club experience something you look forward to each month. And I cannot do it alone. We now have our own clubhouse and as we work to get it usable for meetings and workshops it is going to depend on your commitment and time to making it a success. After listening to several members talk about how excited they are that we are going to have equipment set up for club member use I got the impression that there are a few that forget that we are a nonprofit and depend on donations and what little our annual fundraisers bring in. Running a building will create expenses our club has never had before. Utilities, insurance, maintenance, supplies are costs that we have not had to deal with in the past. We are gathering information from other clubs who have workshops/clubhouses and are gleaning information from their hindsight so we do not make some of the same mistakes others have already made. It will be a fantastic journey!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting, Have a Merry Christmas! And Happy & Safe New Year!

Fred Mahaffey



Fred Mahaffey presented Robert (Rip) Criss with the Rockhound Performance Award for his year of service in the office of Vice-President.





DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met on December 4, 2017 and was called to order at 6:50 PM. There were 4 visitors who introduced themselves. Fred Mahaffey asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Vicky Polve made the motion and Terry Roberts seconded. The motion carried. Colleen Hayes gave the Treasury report. Fred asked for reports from the sub-groups:

Lapidary group: Terry said there will be no meeting in December and January's will be on the 11th at the critter workshop. It will most likely be held at the Church of Christ in Bullard. There will be an e-mail with details as the time approaches.

Mineralogy group: Amy Long reported that the December meeting would be at Kelly Ford's house on Tuesday, December 12 at 6PM. The subject will be geodes.

Field Trip: November's trip to the Ash Grove Cement Quarry was about 100 yds. back as the regular search area is a lake that wasn't drained as the Quarry no longer uses that spot.

Announcements: Fred and Kinney then gave out certificates from the South-Central Federation that were presented at the annual convention. Fred gave Rip Criss the Rock Hound Performance Award for one year as Vice-President.

Fred then asked if there was any Old business. As there was none, we proceeded to:

New business:

Kinney discussed the points brought up at the convention that needed to be voted on by the members concerning the By-Laws. Kinney made a motion to use the calendar year as the fiscal year and John Moore seconded. As there were 3 other By-Laws that needed to change, Kinney explained them and included all in one motion. Darby Spears seconded. Both motions carried.

Clubhouse – Fred stated that it will take ALL of us to maintain the building and grounds. Meeting at the Discovery Science Center has been easy because we haven't really had to do anything. The yard and landscaping will have to be kept up to satisfy the city. The building's interior will have to be maintained for many years of use by "artists". (We are all artists in some way.) Kinney let everyone know that the building is not yet permitted for occupancy. John

Morrison donated 60 chairs and some of these need to be cleaned. Someone else donated tables.

Lynn Metcalf resigned as Web Master. Fred asked for a volunteer to take it on.

Keith Harmon said all the spots on the sign-up sheets for the show need to be filled in or he would be on the phone telling us where we would be working.

Julia Toombs said how much she enjoyed making critters and that she went to two Craft show and raised \$124 for the Club from the sale of them.

There was a Cab Auction in November that brought in \$2000 for the Club. Cab donators were Jack Shull, Mike Howe, Kinney Polve, Terry Roberts, and Keith Harmon.

Penny Hawkins and Lynn Metcalf are no longer able to work on the advertising for the show. This includes schools and papers. They need a volunteer to take over.

We will again have the opportunity to display our goods at the Tyler Public Library January 1-31. Call Randy Harmon if you would like to participate.

As there was no more business to discuss, Colleen Hayes made a motion to adjourn the business meeting and Keith seconded. Preparations for the Christmas gift exchange were done to make sure all were included. Then we had a short time for visiting and refreshments.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2018.

Submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary





ETGMS CABOCHON AUCTION FUNDRAISER

By Kinney Polve

As some of our members may know, I've been hosting a special event on my Facebook auction group, Cabochon Auction Place (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/779193985544574/>). The ETGMS Fundraiser Auction is usually held at the end of September, but with everything going on related to the new clubhouse, I had to move it to the end of November. There's a lot of work involved in putting together this event, but it is well worth the effort. There were 177 cabs donated by Keith Harmon, Terry Roberts, Jack Shull, and me. A lot of these had to be touched up and the backs polished. Then the fun begins, photos, editing, writing and posting 177 auctions, finally at 2:30 am, every-

thing is posted and ready to go. Once the bidding was over, it was time to close auctions and send out invoices. I can tell you, the mail carrier wasn't too happy when she came to my house. Also, Michael Howe auctioned a lot of his cabs. And I don't want to forget, one of the group members auctioned some jewelry, to help with the fundraiser. All the cabs didn't sell, but we raised over 2000.00 with this one-day event. I also set up a ETGMS Fundraiser for donations on Facebook to raise a little extra. There are many things that we can do as members to help us achieve the goals of the club. And I would like to thank all of the ones that helped make this fundraiser a success.

2018 SHOW WORKSHOP

By Kinney Polve



Mark your calendars, because the 2018 Gem & Jewelry Show workshop is almost here. We will hold the pre-show workshop on January 13, 2018. The location will be Bullard Church of Christ located on the corner of E Main and Henderson St. in Bullard. When most of us think of the pre-show workshop, we think critters. For our members that aren't familiar with what goes on, I'll fill you in. The workshop is when we make final preparations for the show. All the item we auction at the Silent Auction are made at this time. It is always a fun workday, and an excellent time to fellowship with other

members. It's an opportunity for you to use your creative side, and I can say, some of our members are really great at it. And yes, you will have a chance to make critter, if that's your thing. In order to have a successful show, we need all of our members to take an active role, and the workshop is a good start.

Don't miss receiving your copy of the Rock-N-Rose Newsletter. Membership dues were due in October, and if you haven't paid yours, this will be your last issue. To keep from being dropped from the mailing list, send your dues in today.



UPCOMING LIBRARY DISPLAY

The club has reserved the displays at the Tyler Library in January. We set these up annually, to promote the club and show. There has always been positive feedback regarding the display, and it's a great way to show the public what ETGMS is all about. We will be setting up the display on the morning of January 2nd, and will take it down on the 31st. All items put in the displays are from members' collections, and displays are locked, so you don't need to worry about your items. We try to display items that represent all aspects of the club; fossils, minerals, jewelry, etc.

The more members contributing, the better the displays. If you have any giveaway fossils of polished rocks for the kids, that you want to donate, bring them or let Randy know. If you have items that you want to contribute and can't be there to help set up, or need more information, please contact Randy Harmon at 903-539-0975.

NEW WEBMASTER NEEDED

We are currently in need of a new webmaster to take over the website. As you all know, but I'm going to say it again, the club function best when we have active members that volunteer. Getting volunteers is sometimes like pulling teeth. It would be nice to have someone that is familiar with updating webpages, step up. If there is one of you that knows your way around computers, and thinks you can spare a little time, this may be the perfect position for you. If you have a thirst to learn, we can certainly train you. Anyone interested please contact Fred Mahaffey.

IF DR. SEUSS WAS A ROCKHOUND
by Kinney Polve

I am a Rockhound, a Rockhound I am.
I am a Rockhound, and I like rocks.
I really like them, like some, like clocks.

I would like them, here or there.
I would like them, anywhere.
I would like them, hidden in a box.
I would like them, made into clocks.

I would have them, in my house.
I would hunt them, with my spouse.
I would have one, small as a mouse.
I would have one, big as a house.

I would like them, on a shelf.
I would like them, for myself.
I would have some, in a jar.
I would have some, in my car.

You would like some, if you try.
Now it's time, to say goodbye.

ADVERTISING

We are now accepting paid advertising in the monthly newsletter to help cover the newsletter publishing costs. The monthly prices and sizes for approved ads are:

\$25.00 for a 3.5" X 4"
\$12.50 for a 3.5" X 2"

Contact the Editor for ad approval, or more information.

CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

The December meeting is always the one to look forward to. This year was no exception, with 43 members and guests attending. Lots of fun, and lots of treats. If you didn't attend, we'll do it again next year.



(Left) I hit the Jackpot!!! What a fun time we all had at the Christmas meeting. How 'bout let's do it again Next year!! Thanks to whomever brought this treasure. S Breedlove



Historic Henry's Chapel Church

THE TROUP, TEXAS CLAY PITS

By CHARLES CREEKMUR

The clay pits just south of Troup, Texas have been producing kaolin clay and ball clay for many years under the management of several companies including United Clays of Texas, Reliance Clay Products and General Refractories Company. There are many pits, both abandoned and active in a several square mile area but only one is of interest to the collector. The active ones are now being worked by the brick company in Henderson. Besides the red brick clay, some white to gray ball clay is produced. Ball clay is a finer quality kaolinic sedimentary clay commonly consisting of 20-80% kaolinite, 10-25% mica, and 6-65% quartz and is used in porcelain and high temperature fire brick.



*Above is the collecting area as seen in August of 1978.
Below shows stolen vehicle removal.*

The pit, often referred to as the Old Reliance Clay Pit, is located off of FM 13 near the historic Henry's Chapel Church. The exact location of the specimen producing area is at coordinates 32°6'34" north, 95°3'39" west. The items of interest to the Rockhound were well preserved and plentiful specimens of the Eocene pelecypod, *Venericardia planicosta* and some exceptional large and well-formed crystals of gypsum (variety selenite). The photo shows the selenite producing area, in August 1978 at the water's edge, which is now 30 feet underwater. A gravel road runs along the pits edge making for easy access to the water. Several years ago, the Smith Co. Sheriff's Dept. and the DPS dive team recovered a number of stolen cars, trucks and ATVs that had been stripped and dumped over the side. We see pictured, a car that had been stolen in Longview, being lifted from the water.



Some locals were using the pit for a trash dump, prompting the company to bulldoze a high dirt berm along the road to discourage that practice (Pictured to the

right.).

Besides the *Venericardia planicosta* that were found in great abundance, a few gastropods (*Turritella* sp.) and some outstanding, large and well-formed crystals of Gypsum var. Selenite. Over several years of frequent collecting, less than a





Above, collecting area as seen in 1978.

Below and to the right are examples of complete specimens collected.



Above picture taken in August of 1978 shows the depth of the workings. Below, as compared to one taken on November 2017.



Above and to the right are crystals of Gypsum var. Selenite found at this location.



dozen complete *V. planicosta* were recovered with both valves still attached. The fossil zone was near the very top of the workings.

East Texas red clay is not a very good media for fossil preservation, so that made this a rare occurrence. But it, like so many other locations, is no longer available to the collector. The clays were being produced from the Eocene age Reklaw Formation (56-33.9 million years). It consists of sandstone and clay, fine to medium grained sand, abundant hematite, muscovite, glauconite, silty clays and lignite. It is friable to highly indurated, cross bedded and has a thickness of 50 to 80 feet.

During the late 1970's and early 80's the author made frequent collecting trips to the locality, and was able to preserve some nice specimens from a very unique occurrence.



Above are Apophyllite & Stilbite, and below is Stilbite, both are from Maharashtra, India.

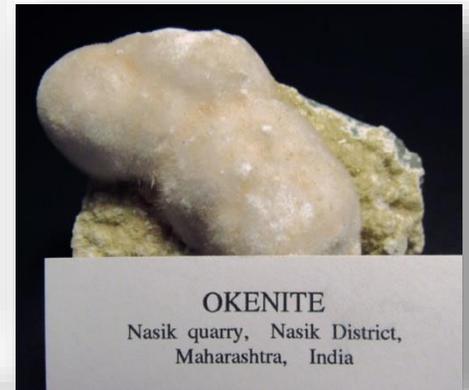
ZEOLITES

By Charles Creekmur

The ZEOLITE GROUP is a family of nearly 50 mineral species that are not only popular with collectors but are very important in industry. They are silicates with a hardness of 4 to 5 on the Mohs scale and have a crystal structure with spaces that allows them to be used as filters for liquids, gases, odors and even radioactive particles. They are widely used as water softeners and have the ability to filter a wide variety of toxins for liquids or gases. Usually light colored, they provide the collector with a wide variety of crystal habits, forms and locations. They form in a very low metamorphic environment, most commonly in the pore space and cavities of volcanic rocks such as the vast lava flows of India or the Pacific northwest. Pictured are a few from the Creekmur Collection.



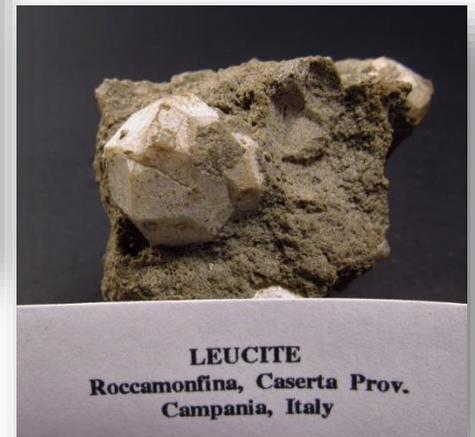
NATROLITE
Ciaplaja, Fassa Valley,
Trento-Alto, Adige, Italy



OKENITE
Nasik quarry, Nasik District,
Maharashtra, India



At left is Scolecite from Poona, India, and above is Prehnite & Epidote from South Africa



LEUCITE
Roccamonfina, Caserta Prov.
Campania, Italy



ROCK HUNTING HEADQUARTERS

Ashgrove Cement Quarry – Midlothian Texas Field Trip Update

A few brave club members braved the cold and we met bright and early at the Ashgrove Cement Quarry parking lot at 8am in the morning. The sun was coming up and the sky was clear. It was a beautiful start to a beautiful day. As our hardy band gathered around our guide and host for our safety briefing to make sure everyone had a safety vest, you could feel the excitement in the air and it wasn't just the cold air. Even those who had been here before were starting to feel the "Rock Fever" as we got ready to caravan to the area we would be allowed to hunt in. Things looked very familiar from my last visit until we got to the area where the small lake was. WAIT! Small lake, there wasn't a small lake here before..... The pit we used to be allowed to hunt fossils, Septarian nodules, and

pyrite balls in was now under water. Because, our group was small our guide allowed us to stop there close to where we used to hunt and allowed us to roam all over the piles of limestone and dirt. Was a very good place to hunt and even though we could not go into the pit there were still treasures to be found.

Fred Mahaffey



For field trip information or suggestions, contact Kelly Ford.
903-647-0878 or kellyjeanford@gmail.com



A Short Personal Field Trip

By: Fred Mahaffey

I was lucky to get to take a jaunt through the mountains in Arkansas at the beginning of November with several friends from all over the country side. Our trip had been planned since last spring after we had gotten together up in Kentucky for rockhounding with another group of rockhounds from North Carolina. Our little group is quite a mixture. With one from Georgia, one from North Carolina, a couple from Ohio, one from Missouri, a pair from Illinois, one from Louisiana, and then myself from Texas. We started out on a very brisk (34F) Friday morning at a friend's private quartz mine southwest of Mt. Ida. Once I drove through some National Forest back roads and after crossing through a rocky creek, we met the mine owner at his gate, paid him to let us dig, then we started hunting for quartz crystals. It never ceases to amaze me that even though I have been at this mine before I seem to find things I did not see the time before. And I am pretty sure the owner hasn't been doing any digging in the mine since our last visit. It was starting to get dark so we headed back to Hot Springs to get cleaned up and met for supper and talked about the treasures we found and previous rock hound adventures and then planned out the next day.

Saturday was to be much of the same, except we had made reservations to go to the Wegner Phantom Mine. We had high hopes because we had heard that they had done some blasting in the mine since the last visit that our own ETGMS field trip this summer. We were not disappointed, there were crystals everywhere. And as hard to believe as this sounds after about 30 min of collecting I was starting to have to decide which nice crystal specimens I would have to leave there as Leaverites. Only, because there was so much and I only had 2 buckets to carry out my finds. We still had 3 ½ hours to collect, what a dilemma! After a fantastic day there, it was wash, rinse and repeat. We met for supper and planned our next day's events.

Sunday, we met at the Old Leatherneck Mine (Fisher Mine), and after hiking for most of the morning around the mountain and mine site, we pretty much came to the conclusion that it was a bust. Except for the beautiful scenery it was a little disappointing. The mine



had not been worked in a long time so everything was well picked over. So, we decided to head to a local quarry to hunt the elusive Wavellite that we have heard about and seen in pictures, but have not been able to find. After about 30 minutes of walking around and poking in the gravel and side of the quarry we finally managed to find a few nice pieces and we actually found the vein running through hillside with the Wavellite formations. From there it was back to Texas. And even though it was lots of fun and good exercise/stress relief I was glad to finally get home.





Cab of the Month

CLEARING THE BACKLOG

By Terry Roberts

I completed three more cabs today while trying to catch up with all the backlog sitting on my workbench. However, at the present rate I am going, I won't catch up for another couple of years unless I stop collecting more material to cut and polish. The first cab (*top left*) is a plume agate from the Silver Island Mountains located just west of the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. Unfortunately, I've yet to cut a slab that will produce a fracture or pit-free cab, but they are still beautiful. I especially love the red flames with the internal white plumes that provide a nice contrast in colors. I'm not sure of the name of the cab in the second picture (*at right*), but my best guess is that it is a Moctezuma agate. The last picture (*at left*) shows a colorful petrified palm wood cab that a friend gave to me a while back. What makes this cab unusual, besides the colors in the material, is that he cut the slab parallel with the vascular bundles which shows them as crooked straws rather than the more familiar polka dots on the surface of the cab when cut perpendicular to the vascular bundles. This material was collected on one of the gravel roads somewhere in south Texas.



INDIA POPPY JASPER

By Kinney Polve

If you didn't make it to Keith Harmon's Rock Sale last October, you missed out on an opportunity to find some nice lapidary material. At first, when I purchased this rough material, I thought it was an odd-looking Bird's Eye Rhyolite. After some time researching, I found out it was Poppy Jasper from India. Its not commonly seen by lapidary hobbyist much anymore, but it is still a beautiful material, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to work with it. It doesn't matter how often the look through the rough material Keith has, I always seem to find something new.





Caves

By Colleen Hayes



I forgot about caves. I forgot just how cool they are, the interesting geology and how family friendly they can be. On a recent trip to Arkansas I had the opportunity to visit a cool cave. The morning was cold and blustery and not conducive to rock hounding so the second-best idea was to go underground.

There are many, many caves throughout the US, but I was close to Blanchard Springs Caverns near Mountain View, Arkansas, so I decided to take a look and was not disappointed. The tour was about one and a half hours long and the guide was funny and very knowledgeable.

Caves are formed in limestone over millions of years. Rain water is acidic and as it travels through the limestone, it dissolves the stone and caves are born. Each cave system, depending on location and age, display many types of Speleothems (i.e. cave deposits or formations). Speleothems are secondary deposits, usually calcium carbonate that is redeposited and builds up to form the magnificent formations. Various forms of speleothems include, dripstones (stalactites and stalagmites), flowstones (curtains), pore deposits (cave coral), and pool deposits (cave pearls) among others.

Next time you see a roadside sign advertising a cave nearby, go take a look, remember that caves are way cool!

Top left, top center, and Left are photos of Blanchard Springs Caverns

*At right - Many animals and insects also love caves
Photo taken at a cave on the authors property.*



**East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
GEM & JEWELRY SHOW
January 26- 28, 2018
Tyler Rose Garden Center
420 South Rose Park, Tyler, Texas**

December 2017 / January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	JANUARY 1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Monthly Meeting	9 Mineral Group Meeting	10	11	12	13 Pre-show Workshop
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	11	23	24	25 2018 Show Set Up	26 2018 Show School Day	27 2018 Show



Overcoming Bezel Fit Problems

By Kinney Polve

A common problem that occurs during the silversmithing process is focusing on the finished piece, instead of each step. Mistakes made early in the process can really be noticeable once the stone is set. There are a couple of areas to pay close attention to during the soldering process. First, once the bezel is soldered, take the time to file of sand off extra solder from the joint area. The bezel should be an even thickness, especially at the solder joint. Extra solder in this area will hold the bezel a little further from the stone and will also create a problem during the burnishing process. The second area to pay close attention to is the trim that may be added around the bezel. Once you have soldered the trim into place, inspect for gaps between the trim and the backplate (*As pictured*). Gaps in this area, even small ones, mean that the trim is soldered to the bezel at a point higher than the rest of the bezel. This is easily repaired at this point but will involve a lot of extra work if it is not caught until the stone is set. Just flux the piece, reheat the problem area, and use a solder pick to move the trim into place once the solder softens. There should be no need to add extra solder. The extra attention early in the process will pay off in the finished project.





MEMBERS HAPPENINGS



THE RETURN OF THE SILVERSMITH

by Marcia Graham

A long time ago in a state far, far away...

I took a silversmith class in high school. I really enjoyed it back then & have always wanted to get back into it. I joined ETGMS last year after the January rock show in hopes of finding someone who would teach me silversmithing again & wire wrapping. For me, it's all about the bling!

I joined the Lapidary/Jewelry group, and was able to take a wire wrap class given by Terry Roberts and Kinney Polve. I also took the Beginners and Advanced Beginners Silversmithing classes offered by Kinney.

I have really enjoyed and benefitted from the Lapidary/Jewelry group members who have been such an encouragement to me. I have been gleaned from their vast knowledge of jewelry making.

A student is only as good as the instruction received from a knowledgeable teacher. Kinney not only graciously & patiently taught the two classes, but recently went above and beyond to help me complete a difficult project. Special thanks to Kinney and Vicky for letting me hang out with them on a Sunday afternoon so I could get further help.

I love my new cuff bracelet and look forward to many more projects. I'm so thankful I have someone to go to when I have more questions.



Mimeoliths

By Terry Roberts

When a rock or rock formation look like petrosomatoglyphs; animals, plants, etc., they are collectively called "mimeoliths". While I was sorting through a bunch of tumbled agates, that I emptied out of one of my 15 lb. tumblers recently, I came across a pretty



piece of Ocean Jasper. The left picture shows the shape that I saw when I first picked it up from the table I was using to sort all the agates. However, I when I laid it down, I noticed that the other side (right picture) was face up and was very surprised to see that it resembled a beautiful butterfly. I thought this mimeolith deserved to be in the newsletter for others to see.



RETIREMENT

By Julia Toombs

Retirement!!! Isn't it grand? Think about it: sit back and do whatever you want! Watch sports all day, every day. Or play one every day. But, I'll bet, one day you got tired of it and wanted to do something new.

The same thing happened to me, only I don't play a sport. I realized how much I enjoyed making Critters. I had received some ordinary rocks from the friend of a friend and was just going to put them in a container with some other ordinary rocks. But then I thought about making some Inukshuks. These are figures that are created in Alaska, Canada, and Iceland (and probably other places). Each is supposed to tell a story. So, I pulled up a picture on my iPhone, got out my glue gun, and began to create. I had to use a few of my own rocks for balance, but in the end, I created three.

After this, I just wanted to do more!! I had previously ordered a pipe cleaner kit (included eyes and pom-poms) from a place going out of business that I was going to take to the next work shop. I decided to call Kinney Polve and Terry Roberts and get some rock supplies from them. I've supplied myself with the rest of the accessories from Hobby Lobby. Someone told me about 2 craft shows coming up soon at the community where I live. I contacted who I needed to, to see if there would be room for me to sell critters to make money for the Club. I talked to Kinney about it in order to find out how much to charge. By the time I had all the supplies gathered, I had one week to get ready for the first show. In that week, I made 60!! I made 8 AT the show. Geva Roberts came over one day and made 17 to contribute to my cause. She even sat with me at that show.

We only sold about a dozen, which was disappointing, but I did get a special-order request (a frog). I had it done in 2 days. Since we still had plenty left, I didn't make more. At the second show, I didn't have enough space to make there. So, I just sold. AND I had 2 more special requests – a flamingo and 2 business card boxes. All are complete. I've also had 2 friends come to my home and buy for stocking stuffers (3 & 19). I'll make more prior to the work shop and I'll attend it. I have 49 so far.

So, the point of this article is: If you enjoy critters as much as I do, once the Clubhouse is ready for occupancy, critter materials will always be available. Volunteer to be a Supervisor now and then and we can have MANY by the time the next Show comes along. Do what you can to support the Club. If you've never been to a critter work shop before, give it a try. It is fun to be creative. I never knew I had this talent before I started. I take pictures of each one and send them to friends. There is a child in you even if you are 80!

ENJOY LIFE WHETHER YOU ARE RETIRED OR NOT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Show Reminder!!!!

I want to remind everyone that I have sign-up sheets for the different areas at the show. I want to thank everyone who signed up or has let me know that they want to help. It is truly amazing what a group of individuals can accomplish when they work together. If you have never helped at a show it is amazing the things you can learn, people you meet, and see some pretty cool stuff. The good thing is when we have more people than needed on the schedule, those people can help give folks restroom and walk around breaks. When we don't have enough people to cover all the areas then it makes it hard for those who do volunteer to actually walk around and see the show themselves. A lot of the show positions are sitting, some involve standing and moving around. We can accommodate just about anyone.

Fred Mahaffey

A FEW MORE SILVERSMITHS

By Kinney Polve

I managed to make some time to teach a couple of silversmithing classes this month. Elsa Jerger took the advance beginners class, to make a ring. Amy Long and Fred Mahaffey took the beginners class, to make pendants.



*Above – Elsa (left) and Amy.
Below – Fred.*





BBQ OR ROCKS

By Elsa Jerger

It all started innocently enough, we had recently downsized from our 28 ft. class A motor home to a 19-ft. class B Travel Van. It was time to try it out! Ronny had discovered the ‘Texas BBQ Tour’ on line, it started in Tyler at ‘Stanley’s BBQ’ and ended in Taylor (near Austin) at Louis Mueller’s BBQ via Cooper’s in Llano, Cranky Frank’s in Fredericksburg and Lulling BBQ in Lulling, Texas, it sounded like a great dining adventure! This was not a rock trip, it was intended to be a BBQ trip and since space is at a premium, I did not pack the usual buckets and digging tools. ANNND.... we were off!

Our first night was spent camping at the ‘Riverway RV Park on the beautiful Llano River’ (phone 325-247-2152) After dinner at Cooper’s BBQ in Llano (good but \$\$) we settled in at the camp ground. We were indeed right on the Llano River and there was a nice sandy shoreline for fishing and rock inspecting, a nice club house and great showers and bathrooms. We had a nice conversation with one of the resident ‘Snowbirds’ and discovered that a Gold Panning Group had left the previous day. “Hmmm.... gold”as I mentally inspected my cookware, wondering if I had had room for my pie tin.... Later, after a study of the road map, I realized that not only were we only 30 miles east of Mason, Texas, we were also close to San Saba and we had discussed getting some new crop pecans and, after all, San Saba is the Texas Pecan Capital. We decided to head for San Saba the next morning.

Somehow my ‘Roadside Geology of Texas’ book had found its way into our tiny rolling abode. Soooo, I decided to read up on the area and plan our trip to San Saba. Well, hmmm, we were only 9 miles from the Llanite Dike which is just North of “Baby Head Cemetery” (don’t ask, just say a little prayer for the residents of said cemetery). The next morning, we made a quick stop at the local Dollar Store where I managed to score the last 2 Trick or Treat buckets for \$.75 each and a few candy bars.... Ronny managed to supply me with his large tungsten carbide screwdriver and his 9” Klein pliers (aka “Electricians Other Hammer”).

Llanite is a type of igneous rock, and a variety of rhyolite. It is essentially pink/brown feldspar with blue quartz sprinkled through. It only occurs in this one area in Texas.

As we arrived, we spotted a minivan from Oregon already parked by the Llanite Dike and a Lady sitting there wailing away at the Llanite boulders with a rock hammer and chisel, with little success. I walked across the road and quickly decided hard rock mining would not be the way to go. I dug down under some of the boulders and managed to find some nice, good sized chips and squirreled them away in my purple Halloween bucket. I then went on back to the other side and found a likely spot between 2 biggies and dug again with my screwdriver and hands. There was no poison ivy or cactus near the area where I was mining, but there must have been some of each there at some point in time. Again, once I got down under the old chips and built up soil and roots, I was able to find some nice chunks that had weathered, exfoliated or whatever, were just waiting for me to find them. I got a couple nice specimens that



Above and below – Llanite outcrop, north of Llano, TX.





have some really bright blue flashes of quartz. Except for the fire ants, unseen cactus spines and poison ivy, it was a very enjoyable unexpected rock hunting expedition.

The rest of the trip was very nice but uneventful other than we had the biggest buck (I easily counted 10 points) that either of us have ever seen, cross in front of us on the way to Lulling. And while in the parking lot of Louis Mueller's (picking up the 4 pieces of stuff that fell out of the back of the van when I opened it to get 1 item). I happened to look down in the caliche paved lot and spotted a nice sea shell fossil. We had a great trip and ate a lot of good BBQ! And, we may have to go back to Riverside RV with our gold pans!



A LITTLE TIME AT THE WORKBENCH

By Kinney Polve

Sometimes it's nice to spend a little quality time with the grandkids. I had the opportunity to teach my oldest grandson, Kanon Angulo, silversmithing. He decided to make Christmas gifts for his parents, so he made a couple of rings, and I think he did a fantastic job. I also had a chance to finish up a project that had been sitting on my bench for a while.



Merry Christmas



It is time to think about renewing your membership. You must be a paid member to attend club activities, such as, Field Trips, Lapidary or Mineral group meeting, and classes. We purge the membership list in January, don't let your Rock-N-Rose Newsletter subscription lapse, renew your membership today!

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

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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 monthly club meetings.

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WHEN: 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



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