



ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is almost that time again. Our 21st Annual Gem and Jewelry Show is just around the corner. January 27th, 28th, 29th, if you have not already signed up to help out I need you to contact Keith Harmon our Show Chairman for available open positions. I want to thank Terry and Rip for helping me out during the last meeting. 2017 is a new year and I would like to make it as exciting for all the club members as possible. The only way to do this is for you to tell me what interests you and where and what you would like to do. Some of you have given me a lot of good ideas for field trips and topics for the meetings but, I would like to hear from the rest of you. This is your club and I want you to have a say in our program. Our meeting presentation next month will be on "How to Identify Rocks & Minerals". I look forward to seeing all of you at our Show January 27th-29th.

Fred Mahaffey

January 27-29, 2017
Tyler, TX
East Texas G&M Soc.
Rose Garden Center

February 18-19, 2017
Georgetown, TX
Williamson Co. G&MS
San Gabriel Park

February 25-26, 2017
Plainview, TX
Hi-Plains G&MS
Ollie Liner Center

Feb 25-26, 2017
Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake G&MS
Pasadena Convention Center



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YOU ARE VALUABLE!

January 27-29, 2017 will be the 21st annual show put on by the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society. This is your chance to take part in a momentous occasion to booster the club's public image, further the mission statement of education in the Earth Sciences, get us closer to our own workshop, give those who are always taking the lead a little less to do and have fun. Sound daunting? Not so, even if you take a small part, you are valuable. Whether it is helping set up, bringing a dish or drinks etc. to the dealer's dinner on Thursday, January 26, manning one of the stations during the show, greeting people or offering to go get lunch for those working the show, every little bit helps. It does not mean you have to be there all three days (four if you count setup), or stay long periods of time. However, if it's only the same people taking part, it is easy to burn out. Please, support your club and know you are valuable to all of us.

Susan Burch



JANUARY 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Vice-President Rip Criss began the meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society at 7:05 P.M. No visitors were present.

Door prizes tickets were sold for the drawing at the end of the meeting.

There were 11 items. There were 2 silent auction items: copper in matrix and a small piece of meteorite.

Rip asked for approval of the minutes as they were written. Penny Hawkins made the motion and Terry Roberts seconded.

The treasurer, Trish Hamilton, gave the treasury report.

There were no Lapidary or Fossil group reports.

Old Business:

* Only two people brought in items to go in the display cases at the Library. Of four cases, only half of one was filled. Keith Harmon said the cases needed to be filled. Pete Kaiser said anything earth science related could be displayed.

* Carolyn Davis received a certificate for her three years as Secretary.

* Society members are invited to the dealer dinner on Thursday, January 26 prior to the start of the show on Friday, January 27. If you are bringing food, please make enough for 15.

New Business:

* The Scholarship Committee selected Jacob Lee Moore from Lindale as the recipient of a \$500 scholarship. Jacob was present to receive it.

* A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the business meeting.

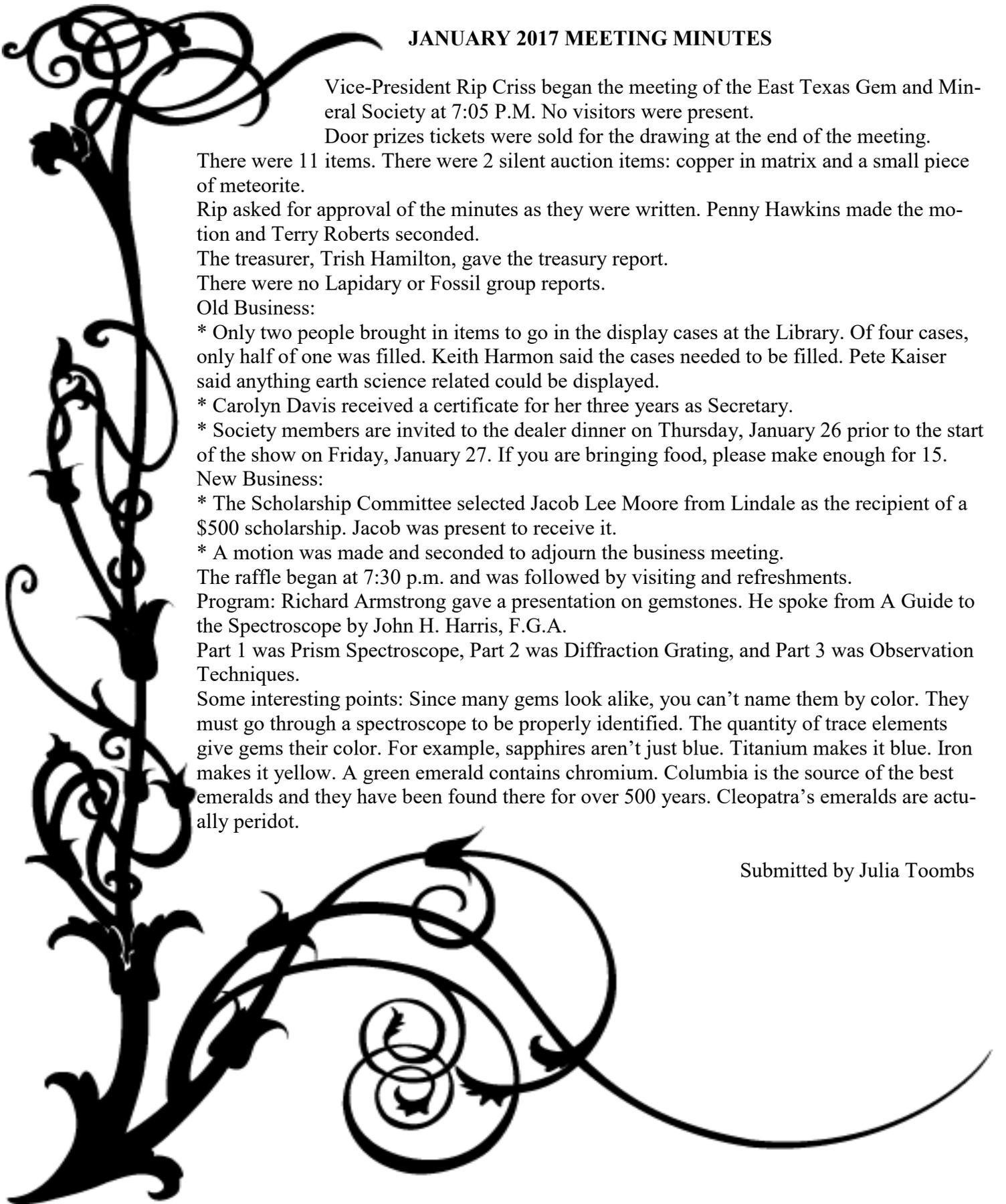
The raffle began at 7:30 p.m. and was followed by visiting and refreshments.

Program: Richard Armstrong gave a presentation on gemstones. He spoke from A Guide to the Spectroscope by John H. Harris, F.G.A.

Part 1 was Prism Spectroscope, Part 2 was Diffraction Grating, and Part 3 was Observation Techniques.

Some interesting points: Since many gems look alike, you can't name them by color. They must go through a spectroscope to be properly identified. The quantity of trace elements give gems their color. For example, sapphires aren't just blue. Titanium makes it blue. Iron makes it yellow. A green emerald contains chromium. Columbia is the source of the best emeralds and they have been found there for over 500 years. Cleopatra's emeralds are actually peridot.

Submitted by Julia Toombs





MINERAL WITH THE HARDEST TO PRONOUNCE NAME - JEREMEJEVITE

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The best way to describe the mineral Jeremejevite is “rare”. It is also extremely difficult to pronounce its name. Jeremejevite has origins in Germany, and in German the “J” is pronounced more like a “Y” – for instance “ja” (yes) is pronounced “ya”. So Jeremejevite would be “yer-eh-may-yeh-vite” or “yer-eh-may-yehv-ite” or even “ye-rem-ay-ev-ite” depending on the source you are listening to. If you listen to the pronunciation on some web sites you will also here it pronounced with a “j” or soft “g” sound such as “jer-eh-me-jer-vite”, but these do not match the German origin of the name. The bottom line is that is as difficult to pronounce its name as the mineral rare.



Jeremejevite was originally identified as a unique mineral in 1883. The mineral was initially found in the Adun-Chilon Mountains of Siberia but has since been found in Tajikistan, Namibia, Germany, and most recently in Madagascar. Jeremejevite is named for the Russian Mineralogist Pavel Eremeev; his last name becomes Jeremejev in German, thus the source of the name. It normally shows up in top 10 lists for rare and expensive gems ranging from 9 to 2 in most lists. It is significantly rarer than most diamonds, the exception being red diamonds. Its rarity is on a par with Red Beryl which is found only in Utah and New Mexico.

Jeremejevite’s chemical formula is $Al_6B_5O_{15}(F,OH)_3$. The color can be clear, yellow, or blue. Those from Germany are generally of the blue color. It has a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7.5 and exhibits a white streak. Although most cut Jeremejevites are less than a few carats, the Smithsonian has a 12.78 carat specimen and the Perot Museum has a 43 carat specimen. The Smithsonian specimen is clear and has numerous hollow tube inclusions stained by iron. The Perot Museum specimen is clear and if you examine it closely you can see a red crystal inclusion under the table facets. For many years, the largest cut Jeremejevite was a 59.68 carat that is pale blue in color. However, recently a faceted 106.5 ct Jeremejevite has been documented by the American Gemological Laboratories.

mejevite was a 59.68 carat that is pale blue in color. However, recently a faceted 106.5 ct Jeremejevite has been documented by the American Gemological Laboratories.

Ref:

- Proquest, <http://search.proquest.com/>
- Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, <http://geogallery.si.edu/>
- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pictures>
- Blue Crystals: Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0
- Faceted Stone: Don Shurtz, specimen on display at Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Via SCFMS January-February 2017 newsletter.

Like our page to keep up with important announcements. Join our group to interact with other member clubs!

facebook.com/scfms4u (page)
facebook.com/groups/scfmsclubhub (group)





CAB OF THE MONTH



Colla Wood Cabochon. By Kinney Polve

JANUARY 2017 WORKSHOP – FRED MAHAFFEY

Saturday January 14th was our workshop before our annual Gem and Mineral Show. We had a good turn out and there were some new faces. We missed some of the regular faces that normally attend these fun events. It was a chance for everyone to visit, talk and a catch up on everything going on and to learn more. I learned we have a lot of very creative members who have vivid imaginations when it comes to creating works of art from minerals and props. The silent auction and the wheel of fortune are going to have some pretty amazing prizes and items up for sale. We worked on filling in some of the empty slots in the show schedule and we still need more volunteers. So, if you haven't already signed up, then hurry and get on the schedule before there is no more room. I could not take pictures of all the creations but here are a few examples.



Photos: At left, Becky Whisenant having a great time creating art; Bottom left, giddy-up; Middle top, a guppy; Middle, a whale; Top right, cute critters; Bottom, group hard at work. Photos by Fred Mahaffey.





**What is a Rockhound?
By Kinney Polve**

What is a Rockhound, do you really want to know?
Well I'm going to tell you, and I'll try to go slow.
He gets up early, and looks at the skies.
The beautiful sunrise, always feels his eyes.
When he finds good rocks, it's like finding gold.
And for a Rockhound, this never gets old.
His mind is on rocks, all of the time.
And to a Rockhound, that is just fine.
He a friendly sort, as everyone knows.
He makes new friends, wherever he goes.
He loves to talk, about his rocks.
Hell it seems like, he never stops.
It's like a fever, he cannot shake.
But he doesn't want to, make no mistake.
It's from a passion, down deep in his heart.
Nobody knows, where he got its start.
He loves to share, his love for rocks.
He has them everywhere, they fill every box.
When he sees a rock, he just has to have,
The fever hits him, and really mighty bad.
If this sounds like you, that I'm talking about,
And have a lot of rocks, but can't throw any out.
If you're not out hunting rocks, you feel kind of ill.
Then the title of Rockhound, might just fit the bill.

NOT ALL FUN & GAMES PART III

If you have been keeping up with my monthly updates, then by now you should know that it's been rough out here in the field. Things have really cranked up here in Quartzsite now. Rock and mineral dealers are coming in from all over the world, and that means more work for me. There doesn't seem like there are enough hours in the day to complete my task. With all these new dealers, this means I have to search through tons of rough material for the perfect stone. Nobody said it was going to be an easy job, and I guess somebody has to do it, so it might as well be me. I'm up to about 1400 pounds of lapidary rough already. It's a good thing that I only have a couple of weeks left until we head back towards home. Soon I will have the task of trying to get all these rocks loaded up for the trip home. Well back to work. We look forward to seeing everybody in February.

Kinney Polve



Hi! Everyone,

I hope you are all having a good day. First thing I wanted to talk about was a misquote in the newsletter. In the minutes for last months meeting it says that I said 'while I was Field trip chairman I had no suggestions.' That isn't exactly what I said. What I said was, when I didn't get suggestions I just planned field trips to places I wanted to go. Now having said that, Several have already made some suggestions for the up coming year and since David Russ has agreed to be our Field Trip Chairman for this upcoming year I will be working with him to see what we can organize. We still need more ideas and help organizing trips.
Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

Fred Mahaffey



Thank you to a new contributor of digital artwork, Lyotta. <http://lyotta.deviantart.com/>



<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontologicalresources-preservation>

To: ROCKHOUDING COLLEAGUES IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES AND OTHERS ACROSS THE USA

**From: Mike Nelson, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, RMFMS PLAC Chairman
COMMENT PERIOD NOW!**



Re: Proposed collecting rules for invertebrate fossils on BLM land On March 30, 2009, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PPRA) became law on lands managed by various agencies of the federal government. Although the Senate Interior Appropriation Subcommittee in 1999 asked federal agencies to prepare a report on fossil resource management, most rockhounds and many professional paleontologists believed any new regulations (in my opinion) would be written to protect vertebrate fossils. However, unbeknownst to most fossil collectors, the United States Forest Service (USFS) published (May 23, 2013) draft regulations concerning the collection of invertebrate fossils on land managed by the agency. The comment period was 60 days and the Agency received few legitimate (non-form letters) concerns. Candidly, the proposal caught many rockhounds “off guard” and it was tough to organize informational responses. In my opinion, rockhounds lost many, many collecting privileges associated with invertebrate fossils. However, in defense of the USFS, the Agency was simply interpreting tenants of the PPRA, and that is the magic word--- interpretation. This week in December 2016 proposed regulations for lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Interior (Bureau of Land Management [BLM]; National Park Service [NPS]; Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS]; Bureau of Reclamation [BR]) were published in the Federal Register and became available for comments. I would request that rockhounds and clubs interested in collecting invertebrate fossils from Interior lands examine these proposed rules and offer comments. As with USFS regulations, the proposed Interior rules are quite restrictive and will involve virtually any rockhound or collector of invertebrate fossils. In addition, Interior interpretations of PPRA rules differ somewhat from those of the USFS. The Federal Register is not easy bedtime reading; however, this new proposal is critical to future collecting. If you observe sections or rules that are disagreeable, please construct reasonable responses and send comments to the appropriate address. Your comments should be personal (individual or club) as form letters are not really successful. December and January are holiday seasons for many rockhounds and many club newsletters are taking time off from publishing. Therefore, the RMFMS Board thought it imperative that clubs/members receive this “call for action” via e-mail. You may find the proposed rules at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontological-resources-preservation>

Please remember as you comment: • Provide first and last name, city, state, & country. All other fields of information are optional. Keep in mind that much of this information is publicly viewable. • Comments may be typed in the box provided or they may be uploaded as attachments (Word docs or PDFs only). • Comments may be brief or in-depth/well-researched. Comments with facts to support them are much more useful (e.g., examples of overlooked scenarios). Keep comments civil and straightforward. Comments using offensive terms, threats, or other inappropriate language will be disregarded.





BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

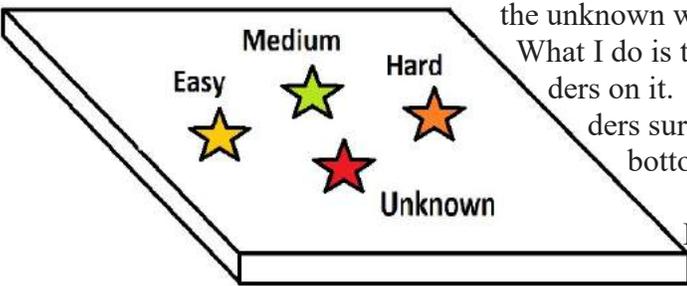
ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS—Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or model-making outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS—There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forget and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknown with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



Please include the following attribution with each publication:

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



SCFMS NEWS

Seeking Lapidary & Jewelry-Making Articles for *Rock & Gem* Magazine

By Jim Brace-Thompson, R&G Contributing Author

Lynn Varon, Managing Editor of *Rock & Gem*, needs your assistance! *Rock & Gem* is the officially endorsed hobby magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. That means it's *our* magazine! In order to better serve their lapidary readers, *Rock & Gem* intends to increase the number of articles devoted to the lapidary arts and jewelry making.

Members of AFMS-affiliated clubs may wish to share their expertise in cabochon cutting and polishing, gemstone carving, soapstone carving, rock sculpture in general, beading of all kinds, intarsia, inlay and mosaics, sphere making, bead making and drilling, flat-lapping, scrimshaw, wire wrapping, chainmaille, fused glass, polymer clay and PMC, silver- and gold-smithing, lost wax casting, faceting, and other techniques that are of interest to today's lapidary hobbyist. Lynn would value article submissions and/or recommendations of experts whom she could approach to contribute articles.

To read *Rock & Gem*'s writers' guidelines, visit:

www.rockngem.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/2017-RG-guidelines.pdf.

For further info about contributing, contact Lynn directly at editor@rockngem.com.





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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