



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 43

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 7

JULY 2017

Coming Shows, 2017

AUGUST 12-13

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Show: Peppers Gems,
Crystal Mystic

4703 Shavano Oak, Ste.100

AUGUST 12-13

GONZALES, LA

Baton Rouge G & M Soc.

Lamar Dixon Expo Center Trade-

mart Building

9039 S St. Landry Ave

AUGUST 19-20

BOSSIER CITY, LA

Arklatex G & MS

Bossier Civic Center

AUGUST 26-27

JASPER, TEXAS

Pine Country G&M Society The

Event Center

6258 Highway 190 West

AUGUST 26-27

MOUNTAIN HOME, AR

OZARK EARTH SCIENCE CLUB

Baxter County Fairgrounds

SEPTEMBER 9-10

SILOAM SPRINGS, AR

NORTH ARKANSAS G&MS

HWY 43N & Lawlis Rd.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you are all doing well. I would like to thank Kinney for the excellent presentation on lapidary basics and all the effort he put into making the tutorial video. And thank you to Kinney and Vicki for hosting the last field trip and allowing us to cook out and use their shop to eat and trade rock specimens. The August meeting topic will be on arrowheads and Indian artifacts.

I would like everyone to start thinking about who would like to be a club officer. In a couple months we will be voting for club officers and if you are interested in helping out and getting more involved in your club, please let me know.

I would like to say thank you to everyone involved in the specialty groups, The Lapidary Group and the Mineral Group. It has been asked if we could have a separate Fossil Group. So if you have a passion for fossils and wouldn't mind facilitating the group please let me know. I am aware of 8-10 members who are very interested in fossils and learning more with others who also like fossils.

We are still looking for a building or land to use for a club house/shop. We have a few we are looking at. I realize that we would all like to have a place to call our own. However, we must also remember that when we finally find something that works. That it will be a big commitment on all. We will need volunteers to help maintain, clean and supervise the shop/building when we have club members who want to use the shop.

We will have our annual club auction in October in lieu of the regular meeting. This is one of our biggest fundraising activities and opportunities to collect some really nice minerals, fossils and other related items at a good price. Please start inviting your friends and spread the word. Also, we will need auction items so if you have anything you would like to donate then please let me or one of the club officers know. Also, October (7th) is Keith and Toni Harmon's Rock and Equipment Sale.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting! Fred Mahaffey

For the next two years the AFMS conventions will be earlier than normal. This pushes the deadlines for the Website and the Authors and Editors contests earlier. The deadline for the SCFMS Website contest will be some time in December and the A&E contest deadline is December 5, 2017. If you wish to contribute an item to the newsletter to be included in the contest held in 2018, you must have it in by November 15, 2017. Susan Burch





JULY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:50 p.m. on July 3, 2017. President Fred Mahaffey asked if there were any visitors. One introduced herself. A little later, another visitor introduced herself. Fred asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Gene Goar made the motion and Kinney Polve seconded. Trish Hamilton gave the Treasurer's report.

Announcements:

- * There are sign-up sheets for the silver-smith classes.
- * Lapidary class: Terry Roberts spoke on the last meeting at his house. Those in attendance (at Terry's) were also shown the rough rock donated to the club by a friend of Terry's. The next meeting is at Kinney's house on July 8 at 2pm.
- * Mineral Group: The next meeting is July 11 at Kelly Ford's house at 6pm. Those who attend are requested to bring a piece of petrified wood collected at Kinney's on the last field trip.
- * Fossil Group: Fred thinks there needs to be a separate group but needs someone experienced in fossils to lead it.

Field Trip:

This month's field trip is scheduled for Saturday, July 22 around Palestine. We will meet at 8am at McCoy's Building Supply on Hwy 79/84. (2200 W. Oak St.) The items that can be found are selenite, fossils, petrified wood, ammonites, and geodes.

Old business: Gene Gore inquired about the ongoing search for property and/or clubhouse. Fred said they have a realtor keeping an eye out, but there is much to consider before a final decision is made.

New business: Kinney suggested we invest in a Sandwich Board type sign that could be put up outside during the time of our meetings to make it easier for visitors to find us.

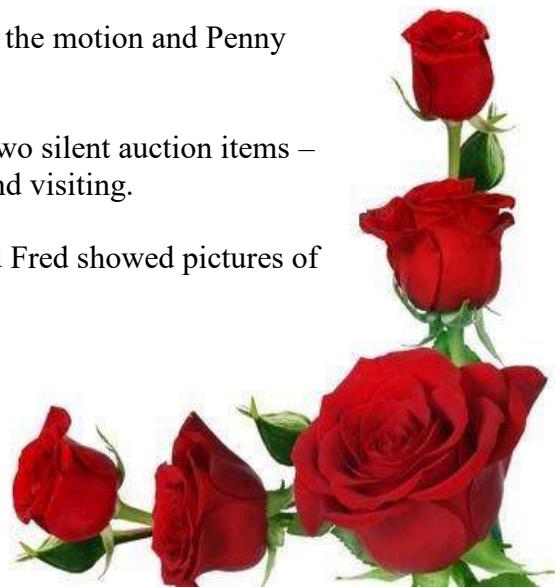
Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Kinney made the motion and Penny Hawkins seconded.

Door prize tickets were drawn. There were 11 items. There were also two silent auction items – quartz crystals from field trips. Following was time for refreshments and visiting.

Program: Kinney showed a short film on how he makes cabochons and Fred showed pictures of finds from previous field trips.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2017.

Submitted by Julia Toombs, Secretary



NOTICE: There was an error in the June issue. The Baton Rouge G&MS is having their show on August 1-13 and Pine Country G&MS is having their show August 26-27.



LAPIDARY AND JEWELRY GROUP

Folks: We just had our July meeting of the L/J Group at Kinney's workshop. Unfortunately, no one showed up for the meeting, except the leaders. Kinney reminded me that I had forgotten to send out a reminder to the Group, so I must take responsibility for this. **Please remember that the meeting takes place on the second Saturday of each month (unless it is canceled by notice to the members) at either my house or Kinney's workshop on an alternating basis.** Since this month's meeting was at Kinney's workshop, the August meeting will be held at my house, and so on. If you have not heard from me between the Club's regularly scheduled monthly meeting and the time for our Group meeting, please do not hesitate to either call me or Kinney or e-mail one or the other to find out what is happening. My memory is getting progressively worse and I cannot guarantee (unfortunately) that I won't forget again in the future.

As a precaution in the future, I ask each of you to please respond to my reminder of the next meeting to let me know if you will or will not attend it. That way we know whether or not to make preparations for the meeting if no one responds or if all respond negatively. Thanks for your understanding as we try to make plans and prepare for each meeting to provide everyone with the information that will best serve each member of the Group. Terry Roberts

Cabs of the Month

These are some cabs I finish recently. The first picture shows two freeform Mexican Crazy Lace Agate cabs. The second picture shows a Lapis Lazuli cab that I produced from a small slab that I recently purchased from Sharon and Gilbert in Chandler. The third picture shows a colorful unknown agate from Mexico that really caught my eye. The slab was given to me by a friend. The fourth picture shows a nice Rhodochrosite slab, probably from Colorado. The last picture shows a nice Cacoxenite in Amethyst cab with beautiful Cacoxenite golden needles throughout the cab. This slab came from Brazil. This agate is getting hard to find now.

Terry Roberts



1.



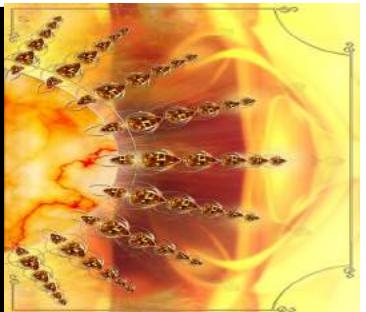
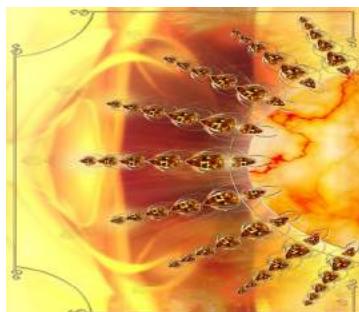
3.



4.



5.



ETGMS MINERALOGICAL GROUP

The ETGMS Mineralogical group met Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at the home of Kelly Ford. There were 13 members and 1 guest present at the meeting. The meeting began with fellowship and a main course of Chicken Alfredo Pasta and Cheesecake for dessert. Yummy!

Long time ETGMS ember, Pete Kaiser gave a presentation on Petrified Wood which included information on how tree petrification occurs and what minerals produce the colors found in petrified wood. He also shared some spectacular slides of his adventures to the National Petrified Forest. Very informative!

Many members brought their petrified wood specimens, which were admired by all! Some of the specimens were from our last field trip to Kinney Polve's area. The meeting concluded with display and discussion by Amy Long of her beautiful and unique petrified wood collection.

The next meeting will be held at the same location on Tuesday, August 8, 2017. The topics of the meeting will be the geological timeline and Selenite. Everyone is welcome! Please join us and bring an appetite and your selenite specimens.

Kelly Ford



At right-Darby Spears and Jack Shull admiring a petrified wood collection.



Above-The group having a blast at the monthly Geological Group meeting. Below -some examples of petrified wood.



Below-Mitch Young and Becky Whisenant examining petrified wood.



Middle-Amy Long showing her collection to Kelly Ford's grandsons, Grayson Guyer and Adrian Riley.





ROCK HUNTING HEADQUARTERS

JULY FIELD TRIP

Our July field trip will occur on Saturday, July 22, 2017. It will be a relatively close excursion... near Palestine to dig for Selenite. So please plan to join us!

We will meet at McCoy's Building Supply, 2200 W. Oak Street, Palestine, TX at 8:00 a.m. to head to the site. The drive from the meeting point to the dig site is approximately 12 miles.

I have attached some pictures from the last dig at this site so you can get an idea of the terrain and what we might find.

For the dig, you will likely need a small trowel or hand tool, a soft brush would be handy and flat cardboard with towel or newspaper to protect your finds.

Since this will be a local excursion, we are hoping for a big turnout. Please let me know as soon as possible whether you plan to attend. Hope you are able to make it!

If you have any questions, please let me know.

As always, if you have any ideas in regards to future field trips, please let me know. :)



KEITH & Toni Harmon's
Huge Rock &
Equipment Sale

(Over 50 Tons of rough rock,
new added too)

(.50 and up per pound)

9116 US HWY 84 West
Rusk Texas 75785

OCTOBER 7, 2017

9 a.m.- ???

Contact Keith Harmon

1-903-316-2967





AFMS/SCFMS NEWS

Rockhound Soapbox - M-44: Who, What, When and How

John Martin - AFMS Conservation and Legislation <afmsclc@antelcom.net>



When the trap is set, only the capsule holder and capsule protrude above ground level.

Thanks to Keith Fackrell, 1st Vice President of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and Lauren Williams, Vice President of the American Lands Access Association for bringing this issue to my attention. While Rockhounding on Public Lands,

mostly in the Western States, and on private lands, with the permission of the land owner, be aware that the M-44 in use in areas where coyote, feral dogs and other predator wildlife are a threat to grazing livestock and domestic farm and ranch animals. If a M-44 devise is found, "Let it Be", Do not touch, consider it as a "Live Bomb" – because it is and it can Kill People and domestic dogs! Safety tips for people to follow are talked about, discussed and even published. Some people are trained to take care of most dangers that are encountered while hiking, camping and, yes, even rock hunting. One danger that I have never seen on a list of safety tips out there is the M-44. In some areas where Rock Hounds are, there may be an M-44 "cyanide bomb", which is EXTREMELY LEthal! The M-44 cyanide device (also called a 'cyanide gun' or a 'cyanide trap') is used for the elimination of coyotes, feral dogs, and foxes. It is made from four parts: a capsule holder wrapped with cloth or other soft material, a small plastic capsule containing 0.88 grams of sodium cyanide, a spring -powered ejector, and a 5-7 inch stake.

When the trap is triggered, the spring propels a dose of sodium cyanide into the animals' mouth, and the sodium cyanide combines with water in the mouth to produce poisonous cyanide gas. In addition to the cyanide, the capsule contains Day-Glo fluorescent particle marker (orange in capsules used by the Wildlife Service, and yellow in capsules prepared for other users). The M-44 device uses a cyanide capsule that is registered as a restricted-use pesticide by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). can be used only by trained certified applicators. Wildlife Service Officers are authorized to use M-44 cyanide capsules to control coyotes, wild (feral) dogs, and red, gray, and

Arctic foxes which are: suspected of preying upon livestock, poultry, or federally designated threatened and endangered species; or are vectors of communicable disease. The program's use of M-44 devices strictly conforms to EPA label instructions, directions, and use-restrictions; applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; and agency and program directives and policies. Wildlife Service personnel do not use M-44s on any property unless requested by the land's owner or manager; a valid written cooperative agreement, agreement for control, Memoranda of Agreement, or other applicable document must be in place. USDA Fact Sheet – 2010: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/content/printable_version/fs_m44_device.pdf

Bottom Line: When Rockhounding, be aware of your surroundings and if one of these M-44 devices are found, keep away. If you have your pets with you, be sure to keep a close eye on them. Pet dogs have been known to find and set off these devices and in most cases it is fatal for your family pet. I have sent inquires to 4 state legislators and 3 federal legislators asking the status of the M-44 usage. I have not received any response as of this being published.

Via SCFMS July-August, 2017 newsletter.



The M-44 consists of a capsule holder, a cyanide capsule, a spring-activated ejector, and a stake. Bilingual signs warn about the device.



JUNE PETRIFIED WOOD FIELD TRIP

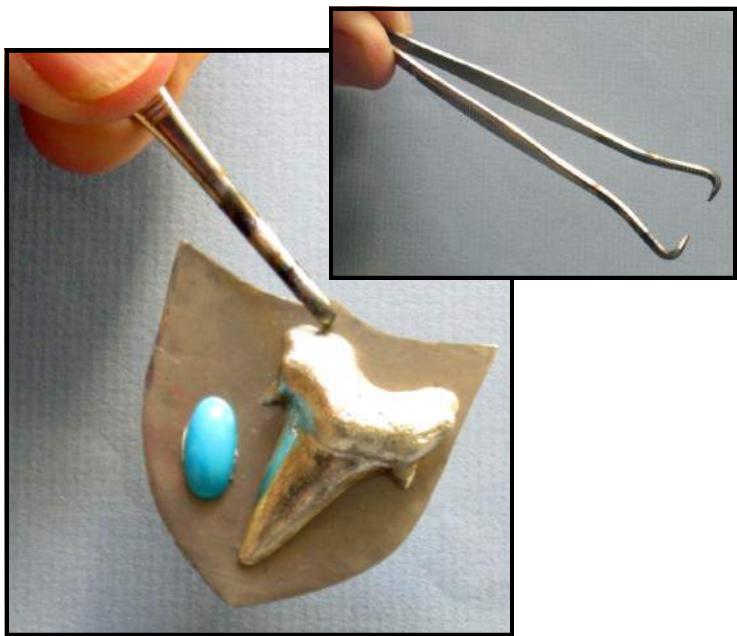
◆ *Below is a gorgeous example of the petrified wood found during the June field trip to a collection area near Menden, Texas. See more photos and info in the August newsletter.*





BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

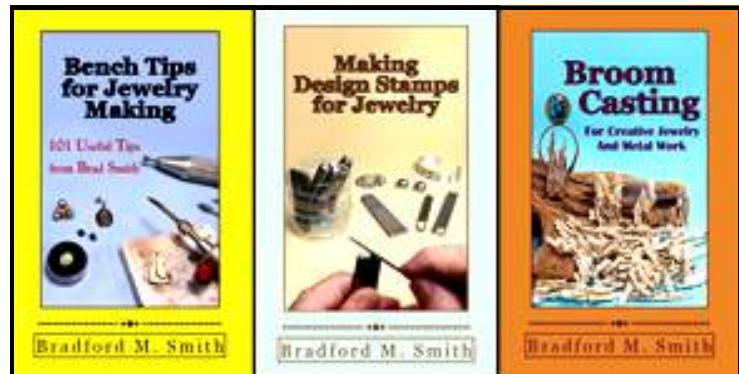
FIND THE BALANCE POINT



chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

Please include the following attribution with each publication:

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon.
www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/ and
www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835
www.BradSmithJewelry.com



With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.

DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

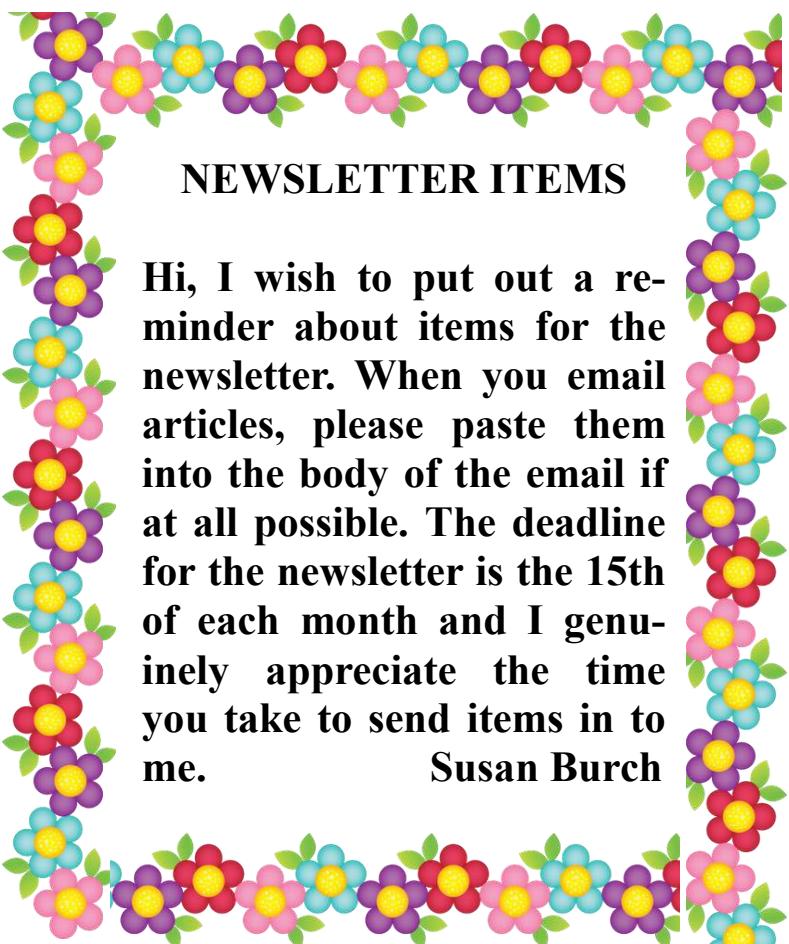
Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Hi, I wish to put out a reminder about items for the newsletter. When you email articles, please paste them into the body of the email if at all possible. The deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of each month and I genuinely appreciate the time you take to send items in to me.

Susan Burch





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.

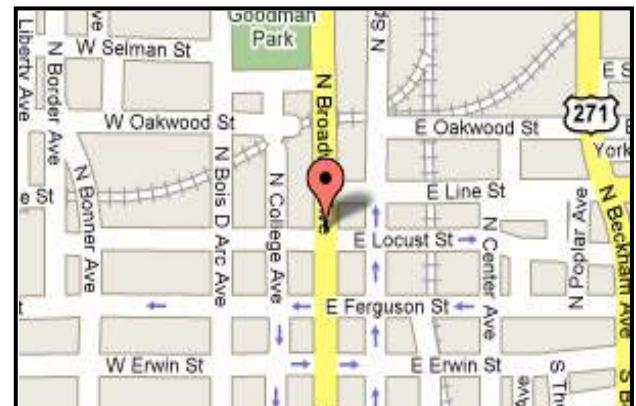
WHERE:

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

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