



# ROCK ~N~ ROSE



## NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 43

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2017

### Upcoming Events

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

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

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2017  
PALEONTOLOGICAL  
SOC. OF AUSTIN  
OLD SETTLERS HERITAGE  
ASSOC.  
3300 PALM VALLEY BLVD.  
ROUND ROCK, TX

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2017  
MESQUITE, TX DALLAS G & M  
SOC. RODEO CTR. EXHIBIT  
HALL

DECEMBER 9-10, 2017  
LEESVILLE, LA DERIDDER G &  
M SOC. WEST LA FORESTRY  
FAIRGROUNDS

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope all of you had as good of a time at the October meeting as I did. It looked like everybody in attendance was enjoying themselves. We raised a little over \$1,200.00 at the auction. I would like to thank the members that donated items for the auction, and Keith Harmon for being our auctioneer again this year. And thanks to Kinney for assisting with keeping up with the bids and making the bid cards.

Two volunteer positions that we need to fill are, our Historian and a Public Relations person for the club.

I have had inquiries from club members interested in how to set up display cases for our annual show. So, part of the program for the November meeting will cover setting up display cases for our January Show and display presentation techniques and a program on garnets. The program for the December meeting will be our Christmas Gift Exchange. **Don't forget! Yearly membership dues were due in October**, so if you haven't paid your dues please get them in as soon as possible.

I want to encourage everyone to send in pictures of not only club field trip activities but if you take a personal field trip then please send pictures and a description of what you were hunting and maybe a general location. If it is on private property then state that, so no one tries going there without permission. If you have an "aha" moment and write a poem about rocks, minerals and fossils, send that to Kinney as well for the newsletter. I want to encourage everyone to get involved in as many of the club activities as you can. Not only will others learn from your experience(s) but you will learn from others as well.

Fred Mahaffey

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### OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The October meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met on October 2, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:55. We had one visitor from the Georgetown group. Kinney Polve made a motion to approve the minutes after some discussion on what had been taken out when the newsletter was printed. Keith Harmon seconded and the motion carried. Bill Faulkner gave the Treasurer's report. Fred Mahaffey asked for reports from the sub-groups:

Lapidary Group: Terry Roberts reported that the next group meeting will be in conjunction with the Critter workshop at Kinney's house on October 14.

Mineral Group: On September 12, Jack Shull and Charles Creekmur brought microscopes for viewing crystalline structures. The October 10 meeting will be about garnets and tourmalines.

Announcements:

Field trip: The next field trip is to Graves Mountain at Lincolnton, Georgia, October 6-8. Fred warned anyone with physical limitations that it will be a difficult search as the area is hard to reach.

Newsletter: Kinney will be putting out the newsletter now and asks for any article that you write or picture that you take. If you go to an event and take pictures, send them in. You may have been the only one from our

group who went. The 15<sup>th</sup> is still the cut-off date.

Building: Fred updated everyone on the progress going forward with the building that has been selected. The inspection is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4. There were a few questions asked and answered concerning its condition, expenses, rooms, etc.

Fred reminded everyone that Dues are due for the new year and Keith Harmon's annual yard sale is Saturday, October 7 beginning at 9 AM.

New Business: There was none.

Terry made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Lynn seconded and the motion carried.

Program: our annual club auction.

Submitted by Julia Toombs, Secretary



# SCFMS CONVENTION & SHOW

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2017

HOSTED BY HOUSTON G&MS

HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER

8233 WILL CLAYTON PARKWAY

HUMBLE, TX

**WHAT MIGHT I BE? (I'M NOT A TREE!)**

By Kinney Polve

If you don't know, what I might be,  
Then pay attention, and you will see.  
I bring out beauty, when I do my thing.  
Sometimes when I do it, I even sing.

It's not a song, that you might know,  
But I like to sing it, as I go.  
My job isn't hard, for me to do.  
I work at it steadily, until I get through.

The final piece, is a sight to see,  
And it really makes you, appreciate me.  
When I'm doing my job, I never fill proud.  
But when something goes wrong, I really get  
loud.

I cut and grind, and I do my best,  
And for this job, I'm better than the rest.  
Have you figured out, what I might be?  
I can give you more hints, that you may see.

I'm not a Lapidary, if that's what you thought.  
But Lapidaries use me, and quite a lot.  
Rockhounds love me, for what I do,  
And let me tell you, that's a good clue.

Okay it's time, to fill you in.  
I use a blade, that is nice and thin.  
If you still don't know, what I might be,  
I cut your rock, I'm a saw you see.

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

As most of you know, this is the first issue of the Rock-N-Rose for me to publish as our new editor. I'm sure it will take me a little while to settle into my new position, since I had to build the newsletter from scratch. I tried to keep the general look of the newsletter for the next few months. At the first of the year I will redesign it, and put my new twist on it. I have always felt that the club's newsletter is the most important tool the club has to communicate with; not only to our members, but the public as well. With that thought in mind, I also think that it's important for the information printed in here to be from our members, and about our club. As your editor it is also my job to keep you apprised with what's going on in the AFMS & SCFMS, but I will not be filling our newsletter pages with that information, unless I think it needs to be clarified or repeated. Instead, for those of you that receive our newsletter by email, I will be forwarding a copy of each as I receive them. Also, as I progress as your editor, I will start adding hyperlinks in the newsletter as time goes by, to areas of the internet that might be of added interest.

Now to get down to business, and the business is news and entertainment. Our different group leaders regularly contribute updates and scheduled events. The President gives us a summary of what's going on every month. And the Secretary gives us the minutes. But that isn't enough to fill the pages. That's where you, as members, come in to play. I need your help. I still have a lot of white pages to fill. How many, and what goes on them will be up to you. There is no need to be an experienced writer or photographer. I need articles, photos, poems, jokes, etc. If you're not sure if it is worthy to print, let me be the judge.

The cutoff for submissions for the newsletter will still be the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, but if I haven't published the newsletter for that month, I will make every effort to fit in last minute submissions. Since I will be printing the newsletter myself, it's easy to slip in an extra page. And with that being said, please send submissions for the newsletter as soon as possible. It will help me get the newsletter prepared and the newsletter sent out to the members as soon as possible, without having to do any last-minute rushing around. Thanks in advance for all your assistance.

**Send all newsletter  
submissions to:**

[rocknrosenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rocknrosenewsletter@gmail.com).



# CLUB HAPPENINGS

## SEPTEMBER MINERAL GROUP MEETING

On September 12th at 6:00 p.m., the mineral sub-group of East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met at my office for our regularly scheduled meeting. Special thank you to Charles and Jack for bringing their microscopes and micro specimens for the dozen or so members who came to view and discuss microminerals. What an excellent opportunity to see up close the miracles of nature.

The mineral subgroup meets on the second Tuesday of each month. We will be meeting October 10th at 6:00 p.m. at my office on the second floor of the United Heritage Credit Union Building, 522 S. Broadway, Tyler, Texas. Make a right off the elevator to gather and snack.

Amy Long



*Meeting photos, above and to the left, courtesy of Amy Long.*



The Mineral sub-group meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Amy Long for more information. [amy@amydlong.com](mailto:amy@amydlong.com)

## HELP WANTED

It's time to start thinking about our January show. Fred Mahaffey will have sign-up sheets at the next club meeting. Fred said that we had a good turnout of volunteers last year, and I hope that this coming show will be no different. We would like to be able to have our demonstrations on Saturday & Sunday, but in order to do it, we have to have plenty of members volunteer. Also, we ask that you sign up early, so that we don't have to try to fill positions at the last minute. You will also have a better chance of serving in the area that you would prefer.



### SOLD, SOLD, SOLD



It was that time again for our October Live Auction. In lieu of a meeting program we enjoyed our annual live club auction, with Keith Harmon serving as our auctioneer. It has always been a fun event



to attend, and this year was no exception. We had a great selection of items donated by our members, and there was something of interest for just about everyone. Keith didn't care what he was auctioning off, he was determined to get top dollar for it. If you didn't pay close attention, he would have you bidding against yourself. Everyone had a great time, and with the good turn out, we raised \$1,212.00 for the club. Thanks to everyone that helped make this year's auction a success.  
Kinney Polve



# Cab of the Month



*Photos above and to the left are courtesy of Terry Roberts.*

Here are two pictures of three cabs I completed today. The first picture shows all three cabs, one red moss agate from west Texas and two Mexican crazy lace cabs. I will wire wrap the middle cab and submit it to the club for its annual fundraising auction to be held at the October meeting. The second picture shows the red moss agate in a different view to better show some of the other patterns in the cab along with the red moss. Terry Roberts



I've been working with a lot of Ocean Jasper this month, and the slabs that I was cutting the cabs from had plenty of crystals and druzy areas. This is one of my favorite ones out of the bunch.

Kinney Polve

**Please send in photos of your cabs, to share with the rest of our members.**

*Above photo courtesy of Kinney Polve*



# ROCK HUNTING HEADQUARTERS



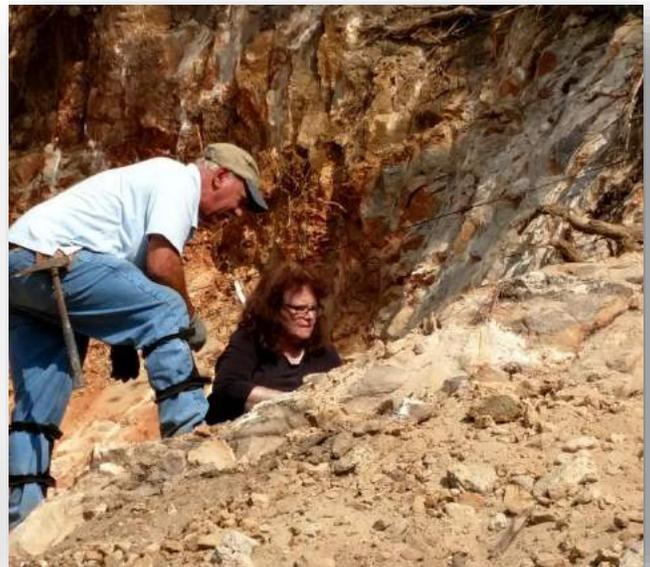
*As we drove in, this is what we saw (above). They actually used the backhoe to open up some new areas for us... which our group was checking out (below).*



## PAST FIELD TRIP FINDS TWIN CREEK CRYSTAL MINE

By Kelly Ford

Friday, September 15, 2017 was a beautiful day! Specially to head to the hills in search of rocks (any Rockhounds dream), in this case Quartz Crystal! Six of our members headed to Mt Ida, Arkansas that evening to get some rest before our dig the next morning at the Twin Creek Crystal Mine. We checked into the Crystal Inn in Mt Ida, which was clean and inexpensive. After having dinner at a popular local restaurant, El Diamante, we all returned for a good night's rest before the dig. The following morning, we met two more of our beloved Rockhounds at the Mt Ida Café for coffee and body fuel before heading out to the mine. So off we go on a beautiful Saturday morning! Our convoy of eight! The weather was hot and humid... but after all... we are Rockhounds! The dirt road to the mine was quite primitive but you could make it without a 4-wheel drive.



*And in the top area... which after much work produced some nice specimens (above). We also worked on some exposed veins along the tree line (left).*

Continued on page 8.



The consensus was it was certainly worth the trip... everyone found plenty of crystal, cluster and points. The mine was very accommodating! They had the cleanest Porta John I have ever seen! They also walked around to see if you needed anything and provided water and umbrellas! As I said... very accommodating! I will definitely be going back to this mine! Happy Rockhounding!

Overall, we found plenty of points and clusters in the rock, as well as in the tailings. Below and at right are some examples found. Photos courtesy of Terry Roberts.



Photos above, left, and right are some more examples, courtesy of Fred Mahaffey.



## GRAVES MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP

By Colleen Hayes



*Photos above, below, bottom left, and right are courtesy of Colleen Hayes*

Graves Mountain, just minutes from Lincolnton Ga., is one of the premier rock hounding locations in the US. Graves Mountain has a very interesting history. At one time, Tiffany and Company mined the rutile for use in polishing diamonds. Later the mine became the major source of kyanite mined in the US. To paraphrase the website, the geology of the site is very complex, the original rocks were probably deposited during the Pennsylvanian Period. As the region heated, the rock metamorphosed into schists and quartzite. The dominant rocks are pyrite/sericite/kyanite/quartz.

Mineral collected at the site include Kyanite, Lazulite, Hematite, Pyrophyllite, Iridescent Hematite, Rutile, and a host of other minerals.

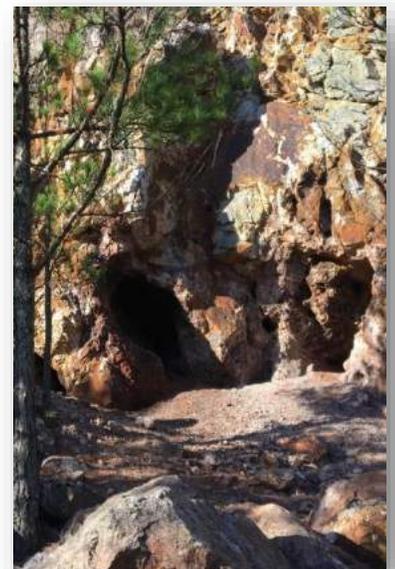
Twice a year the caretaker of the site opens the mine to rock hounds for collecting. There is not a digging fee, however donations are welcomed to defray the cost. Buggy stations are located throughout the grounds where you can catch a ride on one the of the four-wheel vehicles to take to and from the rock hounding locations. The drivers will help load and unload your equipment and rocks. Tips were appreciated.

At noon, the host offered burgers and such for purchase, and vendors lined the drive with booths of all sorts of mineral for sale at great prices.

This is a much-anticipated event and cars were lined up for entry well before the gates opened. Local schools and colleges had student groups arrive as well.

Pete Keiser and I were able to represent our club at the event on Friday. Everyone found buckets of specimens. The Kyanite, Pyrophyllite and Hematite are plentiful, the Lazulite and Rutile are scare and harder to find. I'm not sure of the other minerals I may have collected as I filled my bucket with sparkly rocks.

Even though it was a long drive to Georgia, and we did have to dodge the weather from hurricane Nate, it was well worth the trip. Everyone was super nice, helpful and informative, and the event was well organized and just amazing.



Continued on page 10.



Here's a few of the specimens that were found at this year's dig.



*Above photo is Iridescent Hematite, courtesy of Colleen Hayes*



*Photos above, top left, center, and left were submitted by Kelly Ford and are courtesy of Duane Marcus.*

For field trip information or suggestions, contact Kelly Ford.  
903-647-0878 or [kellyjeanford@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjeanford@gmail.com)

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

<b>November 18, 2017</b>	<b>Ladonia Fossil Park Ladonia, TX</b>	<b>Crystal Quartz</b>
<b>December, 2017</b>	<b>No field trips scheduled at this time.</b>	<b>Fossils, Artifacts</b>



**DID SOMEONE SAY CLUBHOUSE?**

By Kinney Polve

If you haven't heard the news yet, it looks like we will have a place to call home. This has been a long tiring search, with many of our members putting a lot of time into it. I can't count how many time that I was asked, is anyone doing anything to find a workshop? I would like to thank all of you that helped in trying to locate a building. And I personally am glad that the process is finally over. Last month Gene Goar came across a 3200-sq. ft. building located at 2015 Deerbrook Drive, in Tyler, that he thought would be perfect for our needs. He was so sure, that he said that he would donate the \$2000.00, for escrow, if the Board decided to get it; that way, the club wouldn't be at risk if the deal fell through. Well, after some negotiations, an inspection, some more negotiations, and a lot of paperwork to the bank, it looks like we close the deal and sign the papers, at the end of the month. It's perfect for our needs, with an area to hold our meeting, restrooms, a full kitchen, and plenty of room to have classes, set up a workshop, and future parking.





## CRITTER WORKSHOP

by Kinney Polve

We held our annual Critter Workshop on October 14<sup>th</sup>, at Kinney's and Vicky's workshop. We got off to a slow start, with only one member showing up at 9 AM, and didn't have anyone show up to load the show supplies in the trailer. I guess we better schedule that for another day, when members will be available. Well, after a slow start, members started to trickle in, by noon there were nine members and one guest, hard at work. Even though we were few in number, they were turning out critters left and right. It almost looked like an invasion. There was no shortage of creativity either. It was almost like a competition of who could make the best one. I sure wouldn't have wanted to be the judge on that one. I'm always amazed at the imagination and creativity of our members. By the end of the day we have a table full.







# MEMBERS HAPPENINGS

## HARD AT WORK

Vicky Polve has been busy in our workshop this past month. With the show coming up in January, she isn't wasting any time making small gem trees for the silent auction table. And she finally finished her "Forest of Trees" that she had started earlier in the year. She has plans to display it in one of the cases at this coming show. And she completed a special pine needle basket that she also intends to add to the case. The Mookaite center piece almost looks like a picture.

Kinney Polve



*Photos above, top right, and right are courtesy of Kinney Polve*

**SAFETY  
CORNER**

**FIELD TRIP SAFETY TIPS**

By Fred Mahaffey

1. Always check the weather forecast for where you are going. (be prepared for sudden changes. i.e.- carry raincoat, jacket, etc.)
2. If possible talk to someone who has already been there to find out the normal hunting conditions. (don't reinvent the wheel, learn from the mistakes and hindsight of others)
3. Water, always carry water. You can get dehydrated in cold weather even faster than when it is hot. Carry extra!
4. Snacks, if you plan to be out for an extended amount of time you should carry a snack or two with you. Keep it wrapped/sealed tightly so as not to attract any unwanted wildlife.
5. Foot wear- a sturdy pair of hiking or steel toe boots (depending on where you are hunting) with ankle support with good thick socks will serve you well. Climbing around rocks and through the woods in open toe shoes or sandals is not safe.
6. What to wear- loose fitting shirts/blouses, preferably bright colors, sturdy pants to protect your legs, good gloves (leather is usually best), hat, sunscreen and maybe bug repellent.
7. Tools- should be in good shape. Don't try using a hammer with a loose head or broken handle. Chisels should be kept sharp so they will work properly. A bright piece of tape around the handle will help you find it if you set it down and don't remember where. Buckets should be in good shape so they do not break while carrying a load of treasures you have picked up.
8. Rest/sleep- Get adequate rest and sleep the day before you go out rockhounding. When you are tired you are more prone to accidents and you might walk right past the find of a lifetime.
9. First aid kit- Always carry a basic first aid kit. Learn to use it.

**October is the time to renew your membership. You must be a paid member to attend club activities, such as, Field Trips, Lapidary or Mineral group meeting, and classes.  
Renew your membership today!**

**East Texas Gem & Mineral Society**

*Member Registration Form*

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Dues Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CASH CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_\_ Jr. \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter via email Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Special Interest in Hobby \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB OFFICERS**

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**WEBMASTER:** Lynn Metcalf  
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 P. O. BOX 132532  
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**NOTE TO EDITORS: FEEL FREE TO USE CONTENTS FOR NON-PROFIT NEWSLETTERS. GIVE CREDIT WHEN AND WHERE DUE.**

**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. Thank you, Kinney Polve

Check us out on the web:  
[WWW.ETGMS.COM](http://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.

**ANNUAL DUES:**  
 Single: \$10.00  
 Family: \$20.00

**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

RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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