

ROCK-N-ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2018

Upcoming Events

JULY 21

ETGMS ROCK SWAP
ETGMS CLUBHOUSE
TYLER, TX

AUGUST 18-19

ARK-LA-TEX G&MS
BOSSIER CITY CIVIC
CENTER
BOSSIER CITY, LA

Oct. 19-21

AUSTIN G&MS
PALMER EVENT CENTER
AUSTIN, TX

Nov. 9-11

HOUSTON G&MS
HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER
HUMBLE, TX

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I don't know if everyone has noticed, but it is starting to get very hot. With that in mind, I want to remind all of you that when you are out rock hounding or fossil hunting make sure you stay hydrated and dress appropriately for the weather. It is very easy to get over heated and suffer from heat exhaustion. We had a very good meeting even with a smaller attendance and a few technical difficulties with the presentation. Now that we have a clubhouse we must start thinking and operating a little differently. This means we need you to get more involved; from helping with the monthly meeting, to planning events, and volunteering to help other club members learn more about the variety of interests that everyone has. If you want to help but do not know how or what you could help with, please call or email me. We are still looking for someone to take over the Treasurer's position, and we need a full time Field Trip Chair Person. We have folks helping right now, but we have a lot of very capable members who could help with these roles in the club. We are looking at the Field Trip Schedule and are in the process of making a few changes. I would like to ask for volunteers to help lead some of the field trips. Due to the extreme heat we are moving the trip to the Diamond Mine to this fall when it will be a little cooler. Unfortunately, as of this moment, we do not have someone to lead the trip originally planned in August to Michigan, so I will keep you informed on the status.

Reminder, we are having a Rock Swap on July 21st, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Are you interested? We will invite other Mineral Clubs to come visit, and we will host it at the clubhouse. If you would like to set up a table and bring some of your rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary work, please contact me and let me know so we can put you down on the list.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Remember, stay hydrated and be safe while out in the heat. Fred Mahaffey



Photo by Vicky Polve

Who's out there collecting rocks?

MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on June 4, 2018. Fred Mahaffey called the meeting to order. There was one new member. Fred asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written in the newsletter; Terry Roberts made the motion and Mike Howe seconded. The motion carried. Colleen Hayes gave the Treasurer's report.

Announcements:

- Allen Brown – Coin show – June 22-23 at the Rose Garden.
- Lapidary group: The next meeting June 9 at 2:00 pm. Terry requested that anyone with interest in making jewelry be there. John Morrison has said he would donate turquoise to make up-scale jewelry to sell for the purposes of paying off the clubhouse, etc. He has a connection to get to jewelers in New York City.
- Mineral group: The next meeting will be June 12 at 6:30 pm. Charles Creekmur said all are encouraged to attend. There will be a power-point presentation on the Harding Pegmatite mine in New Mexico.
- Fossil group: David Russ - There will be a field trip to Mineral Wells Fossil Park and area road cuts on June 16. He is taking funds for microscopes.
- Field Trip: Scheduled - Diamond Mine in Murfreesboro, Arkansas on June 16. A member has equipment and will show how to use it, but he recommends going between January and May & September to December. Final decision – re-schedule.
- Grapevine Gem & Mineral show will be June 30-July 1.
- Randy Harmon – On July 18, he will be showing some of his collection at the Lindale Library beginning at 10:30 am. His collection will be there through August.
- Carolyn Davis – meeting June 12 at 6:30 pm - needs help with contacting schools about the show.

New business:

- Amy Long – “We are located on a street that is filled with things for kids to do.” Could we put on a week-long camp teaching the same things we have learned and promoting our Club? All approved. Amy will do the necessary research.
- There will be a Rock Swap on July 21 at the Clubhouse. We will invite other clubs, the public, and dealers. If you don't have rocks to swap, bring cash. It will probably start between 8:00 am – 9:00 am.
- Awards – Some still waiting to be presented.

Program:

The program was to be on identifying minerals, but a problem developed with the computer. Instead, we discussed the Clubhouse.

Amy made a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting and Darby Spears seconded. Door prizes were drawn and refreshments followed. The next meeting is scheduled July 2, 2018.

Submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary



ADVERTISING

We are now accepting paid advertising in the monthly newsletter to help cover the newsletter publishing costs.

The prices and sizes for approved six-month 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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
July 1	2 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	3	4 4th of July	5	6	7
8	9	10 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	11	12	13	14 Lapidary/Jewelry Group Meeting 2:00 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Rock Swap 9 am – 4 pm

John Morrison asked me to make and wire wrap a cab from one of the pyrite nodules that were collected from a limestone pit near Midlothian for his granddaughter. I didn't know if a pyrite slab would hold together while cabling it, but I gave it a try anyway. After I spent about 20 minutes cleaning up the black mess left by the cutting, grinding, and polishing operation, I managed to get a decent cab. The only drawbacks were the cab had a lot of small fractures and some pitting, and there were soft spots that undercut during the cabling process.

I used three sterling silver wires and two 14 k gold-filled wires to separate the sterling silver wires to wrap the cab. I also twisted the gold-filled wires to give it a little extra bling. Unfortunately, after taking pictures of the wire wrapped pendant, I noticed the pyrite cab also makes a very good mirror. You can easily see my reflection and camera in the picture. I also included a picture of the two forms of pyrite balls that I had. I cut the one of the left for the cab.

Terry Roberts



LAPIDARY GROUP

The June meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group took place at the ETGMS clubhouse on Saturday, June 9. Eleven members attended the meeting. Terry Roberts started the meeting by proposing that the members start creating jewelry that the club could sell to raise funds to help the club pay for renovations to the clubhouse and additional features, such as a paved parking lot, and a shipping container, or other enclosed space to house rock saws and store rocks donated to the club. The members supported the idea and came up with many suggestions on venues for selling the jewelry. However, some of the ideas may require decisions from the Board and certainly the entire club should help make the decisions. Therefore, Terry asked Sonya Meinert, who presented most of the ideas, such as joining the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations which she is familiar with, to make a list of these ideas that could be presented to Fred Mahaffey and the other club members for review.

The group continued to discuss ideas on which venues to pursue, such as local or regional jewelry stores, but no decisions were made during the meeting. The group decided it would be best to hold an interim meeting later in June so that members could bring jewelry items that they created to the clubhouse for the members to examine and for storage for later sale. The members were also encouraged to submit ideas for jewelry that they may have seen on the internet or in a book, magazine, etc. They could bring pictures taken from other sources for the Group to look at for additional ideas. The interim meeting will take place on June 23 or 30 depending on which date is picked by the most members. The meeting will start at the clubhouse at 10:00 am. Terry will send out a message to the L/J Group letting them know the date that was selected.

Richard Armstrong then asked the Group if they had an interest in creating a new Group called the Gemology Group. He provided a handout that described possible activities, programs, and presentations that could attract additional members to ETGMS. He said there are three gemologists who are members of the ETGMS who could share their knowledge and experience with the Group. The L/J Group members were very much interested in this idea, so Richard will start work on organizing a new Gemology Group for the ETGMS. Terry Roberts

FOSSIL GROUP

Group meeting has been canceled for June.

MINERALOGICAL GROUP

No information received.



Pictures of our future rockhound, grandson Wes, 5 years old. He takes after his Grandma and Papa, Mike and Gaye Goebel!



CAN YOU RELATE?

By Gaye Goebel



Above - Petrified wood. When mom collected it; I hated it. Now I love it, and it sits with respect on my hearth! Misc. rocks and petrified wood and petrified bone from a deer lease in Columbus, Texas, years ago.



Above - Rocks from the painted hills in Arizona.

Below - These aren't rocks but shells from Kauai when it was legal to take them!



I've always been intrigued by "rocks." Every summer when I was a kid, my family took a vacation. My father always made sure it was educational. We always drove from home, Texas City, to visit grandma near Paris, Texas, then on to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico and other neighboring states, for as long as we could stand each other. Every summer, mom and I would load up the trunk with beautiful (we thought) rocks from everywhere we went. Dad always complained about having to move them as he would unload and reload our suitcases. We never seemed to get home with them all... Hum... But some did make it home and they were beautiful specimens. Mom added them to the plethora of rocks she had in her beautiful flower beds. We never knew what they were or that they might be "really" special. We just knew we loved them. Dad died years ago, and mom is now 97, in a wheelchair, and in an assisted-living facility in Tyler. Most of her flowerbeds in Texas City are gone, but some remain with amazing rocks scattered throughout. A reminder of a simpler, special time in my life. P.S. Now my grandson does the same thing! Life really is a cycle!



A JOURNEY FOR ROCKS

By Kinney Polve



A nice scenic view from the ridge at the Turretella collecting area.



Above – Doug explains the composition of the petrified log. At right – We found a nice log of our own.



It had been a little over ten years since our last trip to Oregon. Not that we hadn't tried to get back up that way, but something always seemed to get in our way. This was going to be the year that we made our way back there; Prineville, Oregon here we come! After much planning and anticipation, the trailer was loaded and hooked up to the truck. This was going to be a six-week trip, because we didn't know if it was going to be another ten years before we were there again. There was a lot of driving on the first two days. Normally we keep the daily drive time between six and eight hours, but we hadn't planned any rock hunting spots until we were in Wyoming. After the two long days on the highway, we finally arrived at Rawlins, Wyoming

The first collecting site we wanted to hit was south of Wamsutter to collect some more Turretella Agate and Stromatolites. The area around Wamsutter Rim and Delaney Rim are excellent sites for this material. There was rain scheduled for that day, and I had a little mishap with the fuel cap coming loose on my auxiliary tank, so the first stop was the local car wash. Once we were on the interstate it started to rain, but as we neared Wamsutter the rain ended. Now it was time to head down the dirt roads to the collecting locations. You probably figured it out by now: it didn't take but a short journey until I had two inches of mud under the fenders, and my nice clean white truck was brown. We knew where to find the Turretella Agate, because we had been to this location with the grandkids a few years ago, so it didn't take long to collect our limit. But the Stromatolites were a different story. After a few hours of searching we came up empty.

We hooked up and headed toward the little town of Fontenelle, Wyoming for the second day of hunting, to Slate Creek Campground. We figured we could do a couple of days of dry camping while we collected Blue Forest petrified wood in the area. I always say that you never know who you will run into when you're traveling, and this trip was no exception. We were doing some surface collecting, with some success, but not finding what we were looking for. There were some other rockhounds in the area, so I decided to see how they were doing. Well it just happened to be the incoming president of the AFMS, Doug

True. After talking to him and picking up a few pointers for collecting petrified wood in the area, we headed back to the RV to get some rest. We started out early with our newfound knowledge to see if we could find some nice pieces of petrified wood. It wasn't long after we arrived at the collecting area and started probing for wood,



Above – The monument at Graveyard Point.

Below – Reggie Kemp helping Kinney Polve find some good cutting rough.



that we found a good place to dig. Perfect! It was a large log with a nice center. This one log contained enough to put us at our limit so we called it a day, and headed back to the RV.

The next day we traveled to Wilder, Idaho to an RV park located on the Snake River. This was a good location to branch out to several areas in eastern Oregon that we wanted to visit. We went to the Graveyard Plume Agate site first. A lot of these sites have been picked over, since rockhounds have been collecting here for over sixty years. As expected, we didn't find much at any of the noted sites. We decided to do a little exploring near these old collecting areas, to see if we might find something to make the trip worthwhile. We stumbled on an area that had some interesting material that I hadn't seen before, so I decided that I would call it Owyhee Surprise Jasper. It was a surprise that we found this location at all, and that the rattlesnake that I came across didn't get me.

For our next location, we decided to head down to McDermitt, Oregon. Most of McDermitt is in Nevada, but Michell's Stateline RV Park, where we stayed, is on the Oregon side of the street. The RV park owner enjoys catering to rockhounds and provided a map with most of the collecting sites noted on it. The McDermitt petrified wood site is an old collecting area also, so there's not much to be found on the surface. Most of the sites are around Disaster Peak, and we did manage to slice a tire on the roads in this area. Luckily, there was a NAPA store about 33 miles south of there that had a replacement tire. We met Reggie Kemp, the owner of the rock shop in McDermitt, and picked up a few nice rocks. His daughter, Leanna, gave us the name and phone number of Emory Coons, (owner of Coons Lapidary in Burns, Oregon), who would show us where Leanna's claim was at Glass Butte and let us collect on Emory's two claims.

Our next stop was Prineville, Oregon. We plan to spend about three weeks in this area. There's a lot that is going on for rockhounds around this area in June. Besides being in the center of many old collecting sites, there are two Rockhound Pow Wows that take place in June. We set up camp at the Crook County RV Park that is located next to the fairgrounds, where the Prineville Pow Wow takes place. Our plans were to scout around some of these well-known collecting sites and get a feel for the area. After we set up the RV at the park, we headed back to Glass Butte to see if we could locate the claims, using the map that was sent to us by Emory. We had originally planned to dry camp with the RV in the area near Glass Butte for two days, but after reviewing the area, we changed our plans.

The first location we visited was the Maury Mountain Moss Agate site. Because this is an old well-known site, there is very little material to be found on the surface. To find any good material, we will have to dig. There is about eighteen inches of topsoil, then we got into some



Above – The view from Maury Mountain parking area. Below – From left to right, Eric, Emory Coons, and Kinney Polve at Glass Butte mining claim.



Hampton Butte collecting area.

hard-dry clay. I wouldn't say that it is hard rock mining, but it isn't far from it. We did manage to free up some material, but the color of the moss was mostly green. While we're at this location we took some time to enjoy the scenery. After about four hours of digging, we decided to head over to Hampton Butte. Hampton Butte is well-known for its petrified wood. After several miles of gravel backroads, we finally arrived around 4:30 pm. We decided to talk to a few rockhounds

in the area and get the lay of the land. I couldn't have guessed that the past president of the NFMS, Hidemi Kiri and his wife, would have been two of the rockhounds at the site. We visited for a while and looked at some of their finds before we headed back to the base-camp and called it a day.

The next morning, we planned to meet Emory at Glass Butte to do some digging on his and Leanna's claims. After a quick stop by the Prineville BLM Office to pick up another map, we headed for Glass Butte. There is no problem finding all types of Obsidian at this location, and there are only a few claims for which to be aware. We were only interested in two types: Gold Sheen Mahogany and Fire Obsidian. The BLM does not allow claims on Obsidian in this area, but they do allow claims on Magnetite. The mineral that causes the flash of color in Fire Obsidian is Magnetite. There is one great advantage to collecting on a mining claim site; it is that there are no limit restrictions on the amount of material that you can collect. I think we ended the day with some very nice material, but you never really know until it comes out of the slab saw.

We headed back out to Hampton Butte the next day. To find the Hampton Butte Petrified wood, we had to do some digging. That seemed to be a common theme for this trip: dig, dig, dig! The petrified wood seems to be located right at the top of the clay layer, and the topsoil runs from about one to four feet deep. We just found a place that didn't look like it was dug and got after it. A good tip might be to dig where the topsoil is deep. Most people tend to take the easy route. Also, remember this is an old location, so even though it may look like it hasn't been dug, it may have been dug fifty years ago. I was told by our new rockhound friend from Nevada, Tom Buletti, that this is a popular spot for the locals. Tom also gave us some material that he had polished, that had

come from this location, and some material that came from collecting sites in Nevada.

As you may have noticed, I haven't shown any photos of the material that we collected at any of these sites. If you are interested in seeing the material that we collected on this trip, you will have to attend the monthly meeting after we get back from our trip. I will present a program and have some material available for the members that attend.

SOUTH TEXAS FIELD TRIP

By Terry Roberts

I visited a couple of friends in Corpus Christi and Beeville near the end of May to go with them to hunt for agates in South Texas about 20 or 30 miles northeast of Laredo. The first day, we hunted a gravel road, but I didn't find very much due to my inexperience in distinguishing agates in a rock/gravel background. I did a little better when we went to a ranch to hunt agates on the roads and gravel patches among the cactus and thorny brush. The section we hunted is known as the Little Peyote Ranch and for a very good reason that I found out about later.

Again, I had difficulty locating agates in such a rocky/gravelly terrain, but I had better luck than I did on the gravel road. Although I haven't had a chance to cut all the rocks that I picked up there, I did come across one nodule that resembled an agate biscuit that we love to collect in West Texas. When I cut it, I was pleasantly surprised to find a lovely pink band surrounding a quartz crystal-lined cavity in the center. I decided not to cut any slabs from the nodule since they would not make good cabs, so I just polished the two sections for later display. I am thinking about donating it to the club to put in our new display case when we get a chance to set one up in the new clubhouse.

The first picture shows the nodule as it appears when whole, and the second picture shows the two sections after I polished them.

I soon found out why this section of the ranch is referred to as the Little Peyote Ranch. We came across some small, low-growing cactus in small open patches among the thick prickly vegetation. Apparently, the Peyote cactus does not have any spines and may use the thick vegetation as shade from the hot, intense sunlight in South Texas. You must be careful to avoid stepping on the cactus, but at least you don't have to worry about any spines. We were careful to avoid disturbing the cactus. The last two pictures show their size and how common they are on the ranch.



**EAST TEXAS
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
ROCK SWAP**

Saturday July 21, 2018

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

ETGMS Clubhouse

2015 Deerbrook Drive

Tyler, Texas

ETGMS will be hosting a rock swap.

Other rock clubs are encouraged to join us.

**You can set up your table inside the clubhouse or just tailgate
on the back lot.**

We are limiting indoor space to one 6 or 8-foot table.

Come and buy, sell, or swap.

There should be a good selection of club-related items.

**Bring your minerals, fossils, rough material, slabs,
handmade items, equipment, etc.**

It should be a great day for camaraderie.

**And if that isn't enough, we will be cooking up some
hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch.**

See you there.

Lapidary/Jewelry Group – Meets on the second Saturday of each month, except December and January. The meeting time is 2:00 pm. This group's meeting is all about lapidary (anything to do with cutting and polishing rocks) and jewelry making. Terry Roberts leads this group. To have your name added to the email list contact Terry Roberts - terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

Mineral Group – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about minerals, how to identify them, geology and the locations they can be found. Topics are decided on by the group leader and the members. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. If you are interested in learning more about minerals, get your name on the email list for this group by contacting Charles Creekmur - calcite65@gmail.com

Fossil Group – Meets every third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. If fossils are your thing, or you just want to learn a little more about fossils, this would be the group for you. Topics about fossils, locations where they can be found, and geological time periods are all discussed in this group. David Russ heads up the group, and if you would like to have your name added to the email list, contact David Russ - dbruss50@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Please send any original info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below by the 10th 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. AFMS & SCFMS Newsletters will be emailed to members, as to not duplicate that information here, unless it needs to be repeated. Board meeting minutes are not published in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact an officer on the Board. The information in this newsletter may be reproduced for nonprofit use, as long as credit is given to the source. Thank you, Kinney Polve

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 regular monthly club meetings.

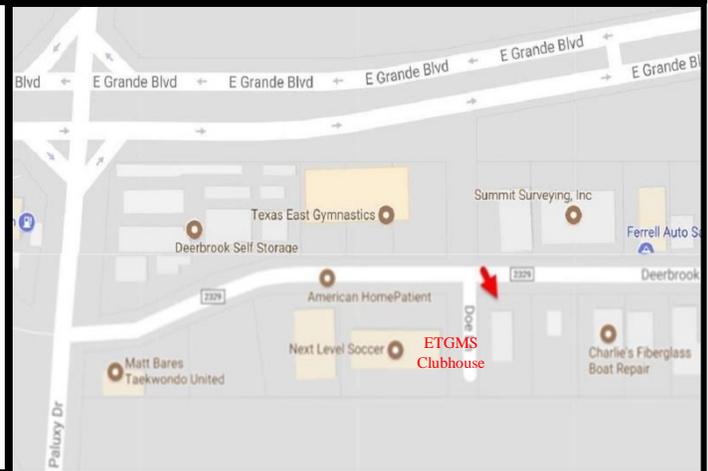
ANNUAL DUES:

Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00

MONTHLY MEETING:

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

WHERE: ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



PRESIDENT: Fred Mahaffey
903-978-0268 frederickmahaffey@gmail.com

EDITOR: Kinney Polve
903-646-3189 rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Terry Roberts
903-881-5108 terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

FOSSIL GROUP: David Russ
903-894-4275 dbruss50@gmail.com

TREASURER: Colleen Hayes
903-343-2714 chayestx@suddenlink.net

MINERAL GROUP: Charles Creekmur
903-834-6814 calcite65@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Julia Toombs
903-882-5809 jtoombs@suddenlink.net

SHOW SCHOOL DAY
CHAIRPERSON: Carolyn Davis
214-212-0421 emugems0@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP
CHAIRMAN: Kelly Ford
903-647-0878 kellyjeanford@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN SHOW: Keith Harmon
903-795-3860 keithharmon19@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER: Holly Ingram
214-794-7736 holly.ingram369@outlook.com

CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

P. O. BOX 132532

Tyler, TX 75713-2532