



# ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 7

JULY 2015

## Coming Shows, 2015

### JULY 25

HOUSTON, TX  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society  
10805 Brooklet  
Houston, TX 77099

### AUGUST 8-9

BATON ROUGE, LA  
Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society  
Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel

### AUGUST 15-16

BOSSIER CITY, LA  
Arklatex G&M Society  
Bossier City Civic Center

### SEPTEMBER 25-27

HUMBLE, TX  
Houston Gem and Mineral Society Hum-  
ble Civic Center

### SEPTEMBER 9-11

MOUNT IDA, AR  
Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce-  
Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz  
Montgomery County Fairgrounds  
Held in conjunction with the Annual  
Amateur World Championship Quartz  
Crystal Digging Contest

### OCTOBER 10-11

TEMPLE, TX  
Tri-Cities Gem & Mineral Society  
Mayborn Civic Center

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Okay, summer is here. With temperatures getting close to the 100 degree mark, I want to start off by cautioning all our members to carry plenty of water when you go out rock hunting. Make sure you go with a buddy, and pay attention to the signs of heat exhaustion.

Elections for club officers is coming up in September. We will be taking nomination for the elected positions at the August meeting, I encourage everybody to attend. All of the current officers would enjoy a break from their present position, so I'm asking other members to step and be nominated for one of these offices. For those members that have served in the past, and say I have served my time in office, I want you to think about what it was like to serve in an office year after year because nobody was willing to be nominated to replace you. Colleen Hayes stepped up last year to fill the Treasurer's office, but she will be unable to serve another term. That meaning we need someone for that office. And if you are worried about hurting someone feeling by running for their office, you won't. If you're not sure if you can do the duties of that office, contact that current officer and find out what it is all about.

The program for the August meeting will be given by Terry Roberts, on his trip to a Tourmaline Mine in California. We still need a program for the September meeting. If you are willing to present the program in September please contact me. At the October meeting, we will have our annual silent auction, in lieu of our program. All auction items are donated by members. Since things have slowed down a little, and it's getting kind of hot around here, I think it's time to head north for a few weeks. We're going to grab us a couple of grandkids, and head for Montana. Hopeful we can find us some Montana Agate, a few fossils, and some cooler temperatures. Be safe out there.

Kinney Polve



Check out page 3 for The Future Rockhounds Corner

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The July Meeting Minutes were not available at time of printing.



# Fossil, Mineral, Jewelry and Artifact Show

**What:**

Buy and Trade Fossils, Minerals, Gemstones, Artifacts, Jewelry, Lapidary materials and other geology related items.

You may bring items to trade or buy from one of the many trade show dealers.

***Buy direct and pay less than retail! Countless unique items including:***

- Fossils, minerals, gemstones, rocks, etc, many direct from those who found them
- Hand made jewelry direct from the designers
- Authentic arrowheads and other artifacts
- Unique and one of a kind gifts!

**Free Admission and Free Parking at 10805 Brooklet, 10420 Rockley, 10414 Rockley, and 11011 Brooklet (see parking map below for details)**

**July 25, 2015**

**10:00A.M. to 6:00P.M.**

**Where:  
Houston Gem and  
Mineral Society  
10805 Brooklet  
Houston, TX 77099**





**LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP**

The July meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group was held at Terry Roberts' house with nine members attending, including two new members. Four of the members displayed their latest projects for the rest of the group to admire while sharing stories of past collecting trips and techniques used to create their projects. The group then assembled in Terry's workshop where he cut some small nuggets of Turquoise for a new member. The group also admired some of the slabs, rough material, and preforms that Terry had accumulated over the years. One new member brought a nice collection of rough material she had collected in Arizona and Idaho for the group to help her identify. The next meeting of the L/J Group will be on August 8 at the home of Bill Faulkner in Whitehouse. Terry Roberts



**FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS CORNER**

**YOUR FIRST LESSON FOR TODAY IS HEMATITE**

Hematite (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), the most important iron ore, contains about 70 per cent iron. Great beds occur in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and adjacent Canada. Hematite varies from a red earthy powder to a dark, compact, shiny mineral, H. 1 to 6, Sp. Gr. about 5, streak, cherry red.

**YOUR SECOND LESSON FOR TODAY IS FLUORITE**

FLUORITE in commercial qualities occurs in both sedimentary and igneous rocks. Veins of fluorite (CaF<sub>2</sub>) quartz or calcite sometimes contain lead, copper, and zinc minerals. We are the world's largest producer of fluorite, most of it mined in Illinois, Kentucky, Colorado, and New Mexico. Fluorite is used to produce a fluid slag in steelmaking and in smelting ores. It is used in making high-test gasoline, Freon, and many other chemical products. Fluorite is a most attractive mineral of varied colors--white, blue, green, and violet. Transparent to translucent. H. 4; Sp. Gr. 3.2. Streak, white; glassy luster. Good octahedral cleavage. Crystals and fine cleavage fragments make attractive specimens for the collector. Often fluorescent in ultraviolet light.

Ref: Rocks and Minerals, by Herbert S. Zim & Paul R. Shaffer; Via SCFMS NEWSLETTER MAY-JUNE, 2015



**A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR JUNIOR READERS, THEIR PARENTS  
AND THEIR LOCAL CLUB OFFICERS**

I would like to encourage our "Future Rock-hounds" from the South Central Federation Clubs to try to put in an exhibit into the Federation Show in Austin, TX this year, October 23-25. By doing so, you will be eligible to enter into competition for the Turner Award.

This Award is for the hosting Federation Students, and only students from the SCFMS are eligible this year. Our students will not have that opportunity for another seven years.

Parents and Club Officers also need to encourage your students to enter this year. Give them the help they need and let's see if one of our SCFMS Students could receive the \$50.00 Saving Bond.

Thank you, Paul W. Good, Editor; Via SCFMS NEWSLETTER MAY-JUNE, 2015



## ROCK FEVER By Kinney Polve

When you catch it, there's only one thing you can do.  
There's only one thing, which will really pull you thru.  
Don't bother with the doctor, he can't do you any good.  
He couldn't treat the symptoms, even if he thought he could.  
Now you better heed my words, or your fevers going to rise.  
I know this from experience, I'm not telling you any lies.  
Before it gets worse, here is what you better do.  
Load up a shovel and bucket, and your rock hammer too.  
Get in your truck, and start heading down the road.  
Listen to what I'm telling you, do as you are told.  
This is the only cure, I have used it before.  
So do it right now, and please don't ignore.  
With the symptoms you have, I know it's hard to drive.  
But please pay attention, you want to get there alive.  
Head down the road, to your favorite rock hunting spot.  
It could be very far off, but it's better if it's not.  
It could be for agate, petrified wood, opal or pyrite.  
I'll tell you from experience,  
          they'll all work just right.  
Now in the future,  
          when you feel the fever flaring up,  
Remember this prescription,  
          and I wish you all good luck.

I DIG ROCKS!





### TERRY ROBERTS' FINDS AND CREATIONS

Hi Everyone: When I was emptying out a tumbler several days ago, I found a small biscuit from the Walker Ranch in it that I was going to throw away since it was not very interesting or pretty. Then I noticed the pattern of some holes near the base of the biscuit and I thought it resembled one of the crystal skulls from South America in the last Indiana Jones movie. Anyway, I thought you all would get a kick out of seeing it. You just never know what you might find when you start tumbling a lot of material from that ranch.



I have included several pictures for you to look at. One shows a beautiful plume agate that I cut from a large biscuit that came from the Walker Ranch south of Alpine. It looks so much better when you see light transmitted through it rather than with reflected light. This is a killer cab though.

Another shows a cab that I decided to do as a challenge due to the area of coarse quartz crystals on the right side. I had collected this one some years ago (also from the Walker Ranch) but finally screwed up my courage to try and cab it. You know how hard it is to work with an area of large crystals on the edge of a cab.



I managed to get the cab completed without any mishap until I tried to polish the back, which in retrospect, I should not have done. I pushed my luck too far and some of the crystals broke loose in my hands. Oh well, it was an experiment to see if I could do it anyway.



I finished wrapping that tumbled slab showing huge plumes that Johnny French sent to me. He found it while collecting agates along a gravel road northwest of Laredo. I am mailing it back to him shortly along with some other material that I have accumulated for him. I thought you all would like to see it as a finished product.





Terry Roberts cabs continued

A couple more pictures show the gorgeous plume heel from a rock that a friend of mine (Johnny French) collected along the gravel roads somewhere near Zapata, as I recall. Johnny asked me to wire wrap it for him. The first picture shows the front of the tumbled slab in all its plumed glory. However, since it was a heel, the back was too convex to make it easy to get the wire to hold the cab in place. Also, the back did not even give a hint of what was to be seen on the front side. Therefore, I decided to grind down the dome on the back to convert it into a normal slab that will be much easier to wrap. Also, please note that the plumes show through on the back now, although not to the extent that they show up on the front.



The last picture is what I believe to be a very nice piece of palm wood. The slab that the cab came from must have been cut from the rock along the length of the wood since the vascular bundles (if that is what they are) are shown lengthwise rather than in cross section. I really love the color they show.



**Thanks to Terry Roberts for sharing his beautiful work. I apologize in advance if I've gotten the pictures in incorrect order compared to the description. It was a joy to see some of these and more at the last monthly meeting.**

SB





### BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

#### SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS



I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.

My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date, and are thrown out. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if she had any expired vials. She said "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200).

The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

#### NEW RELEASE - Broom Casting Book

I'm pleased to announce the publication of "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry and Metal Work", one of the techniques that puts the fun into metal working.

Discover the rush of pouring molten silver into a common straw broom to get marvelous icicle-like shapes that make elegant pendants and earrings. Now available on Amazon at [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835/) or search for "Broom Casting"

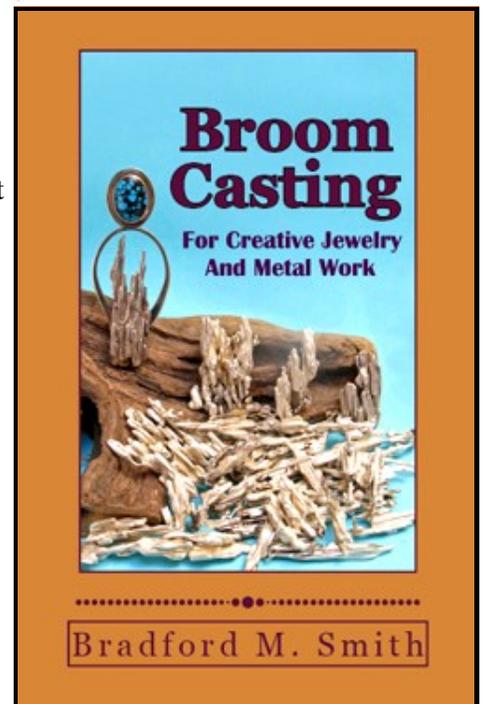


#### TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots. Toothpicks are also handy for holding a stone while stone setting. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone.

**Please include the following attribution with each publication:**

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon and if you publish as a pdf, I'd appreciate 'Amazon' to be a live link to [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)





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.

MONTHLY MEETING:

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

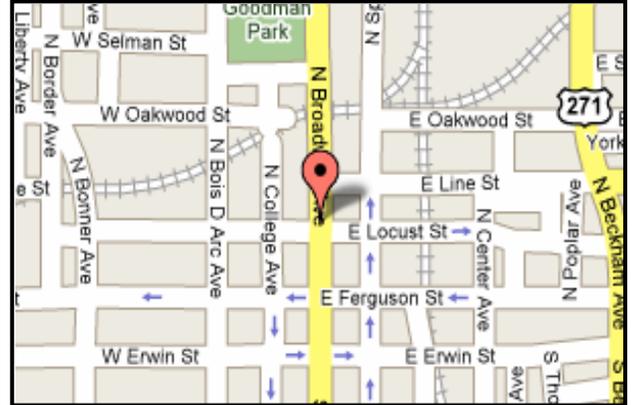
WHERE:

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 information 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, as that is the best way to reach me. Thank you... Susan Burch

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