



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 40

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 7

JULY 2014

Coming Shows, 2014

August 9-10

Baton Rouge, LA

SCFMS Convention & Show

Baton Rouge G&MS

August 16-17

Bossier City, LA

Ark-La-Tex G&MS

Bossier City Civic Ctr.

August 23-24

Jasper, TX Pine Country G&MS

Events Center

October 11-12

Temple, TX Tri-City G&MS

Mayborn Civic Ctr.

October 17-19

Austin, TX

Austin G&MS

Palmer Events Ctr.

October 17-19

Victoria, TX

Victoria G&MS

Community Ctr.

2905 East North St.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, my July rockhounding trip has been postponed until August. Between some personal business that had to be handled before I leave and the SCFMS Convention coming up August 9th, it looks like August 11th will be my new date for departure. Maybe I will be able to slip in a short trip to lower my fever. This is giving me time to move all my cutting material from my old shop up to my new one. Where did all these rocks come from? Some people would call it an obsession, but anybody that has rock fever knows this is the side effect.

I know it's only July, but I want to remind everybody that elections for club officers is coming up at our September meeting. This is less than 2 months away. Bill Faulkner will not be able to serve as Treasurer for another term. The rest of us currently in office will serve another term if needed, but we encourage members to step up and fill our offices. I know some of you might think hard to follow in Bill's foot steps, after the excellent job he has done in the past 2 years. But I would like somebody to try. If you might be interested in serving in a club office, please let someone know.

It has come to my attention that our club is beginning to loose the participation of some of our older members. I only mention this because these members bring a wealth of knowledge to all of the rest of our members, and without this knowledge new members can't gain the knowledge to grow. Mineralogy, geology, and fossils are three of the areas. I know that our situations change at different times in our lives, but I want to encourage as many as I can to attend our monthly meeting. This is the only opportunity that a lot of our new and existing member have to interact and gain that needed knowledge. Currently we have a strong group in the Lapidary Arts, but I would like to see an increase in these other areas. I know these members are always glade to share their knowledge when asked, but our new members don't know who you are so they aren't able to share in that knowledge. If you still are not able to attend the meetings, and would like to help out some of the new members in a certain area, please contact me so we can direct them your way.

Emory Fielding, an ex-member has donated materials related to lost wax / wax casting jewelry. He wants it to go to somebody starting out learning to cast jewelry, to save them some of the initial expenses. If one of our members is interested, please contact me.

I really enjoyed the program at this months meeting. I would like to see more programs from our members. If you would like to see a program over a certain area that you would like to learn more about, please let me know, and I will try to organize it. And if you have mention one to me in the past, don't be afraid to remind me. My memory isn't what it use to be.

Kinney Polve

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JULY MEETING MINUTES



The July meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Kinney Polve, President. The announcement was made that door prize tickets were on sale, and the silent auction was in progress. Visitors and new members were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Penny Hawkins made the motion and it was seconded by Colleen Hayes.

No treasurer's report was available.

Lapidary Sub Group: At the last meeting the group made gem trees. The July meeting will be on Saturday, July 12 at the home of Terry Roberts at 2 p.m. The program will be an open forum depending on the interest of the group.

Field Trips: No field trip report was available. A small group went on the last trip to the Waco Mammoth Site. The weather is not suitable for local hunting until it is cooler.

Newsletter: Articles from everyone are wanted for the newsletter. Think about some facet of your hobby that you can share with other club members.

Announcements: Randy Harmon set up a display at the Lindale Public Library. Gene Gore is ambulatory after suffering a broken leg, but is still not able to get out and about.

Old Business: In August Kinney Polve and Susan Burch will attend the South Central Convention in Baton Rouge, LA as our delegates. Sherry Breedlove has volunteered to present a program at the Troup Library. Some club members will present a 45 minute program at the Discovery Science Place between August 4-8. They will work with us on the date and time.

New Business: Officer elections will be held at the September meeting. If you are willing to serve in any of the positions please notify Kinney. Everyone is encouraged to assist the club in some way. The club web page is in need of being kept up to date. Susan Burch volunteered to work on this along with the newsletter. The board voted to purchase six small sets of hand tools to be used for classes and activities.

Questions: It was asked if a fall rock swap was being planned. Kinney said it had been mentioned along with a social barbeque but a volunteer is needed to head the committee. It was also asked about where the club stood on securing a workshop. Kinney explained that the paper work has been filed for 501 3C status so that we qualify as a nonprofit group. When this is granted we can accept donations from groups that can assist us in securing a building and property. We have some funds but will have to pay monthly expenses when a building is secured.

A motion was made by Sherry Breedlove to adjourn the business meeting. A break followed for refreshments and door prizes. A program of show and tell was presented by club members. The silent auction was closed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Davis



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hi all, just wished to let you know I had not forgotten everyone even though I've been on a much needed vacation the last 10 days. After travelling to Houston to meet up with my boyfriend, Robert, we drove to Brazoria to dress in full regalia to attend the Santa Anna Ball benefiting the Brazoria Historical Society. During the next few days back in Houston, I was able to reorganize some of my gemstone and bead collection and my tool bag to make it easier to be creative and I did make a couple of pair of earrings.

While in Houston I did my own form of rock hunting in a few of the interesting shops there, picking up some more fluorite and agate. Of course, it was necessary to do a bit of antiquing on the side.

Toward the end of the week, we headed to Austin, San Marcos and New Braunfels. After some fun in the sun and splashing through Schlitterbaun in New Braunfels, I almost needed another vacation.

Singing Karaoke at a little hole in the wall in Austin was very enjoyable, belting out a duet of 'Jackson' by Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash.

Saturday, Robert and I spent some time with his family in Bertram just outside of Austin.

On the way back through Austin, we could not pass up the

opportunity to stop in to Natures Treasures, a great rock shop worth visiting for a few new pieces. These included a few grab bag assortments of fossil teeth for me and a lovely little quartz geode for his daughter.

All in all a very enjoyable vacation, but now it's back to the mill to crank out another issue of the Rock N Rose and back to work at the newspaper. Life can't be all play.

Susan Burch





MINERAL WELLS FOSSIL PARK

Mineral Wells Fossil Park provides the fossil enthusiast, paleontologist and student an excellent opportunity to see and collect well preserved "Pennsylvanian Period" fossils with ease and abundance. These fossils have been dated to be just over 300 million years old. Yes, you read correctly, you may collect and take fossils out of the park - for personal use only. See the park rules for more information.

The park as it exists today is a result of 20 years of erosion of the old City of Mineral Wells, Texas, landfills borrow pit, which was closed in the early 1990s. The erosion of the borrow pit has revealed fossils documenting ancient sea species of crinoids (sea lilies), echinoids (urchins), brachiopods, pelecypods (clams and oysters), bryozoans, corals, trilobites (arthropods), plants and even primitive sharks.



In recent years, the borrow pit has become a Mecca for the avid fossil hunter, the amateur and professional paleontologist, and various fossil, paleontological, gem and mineral groups and societies in Texas and the surrounding states.

Regular Hours: The park is now open Friday- Monday, 8 am to dusk. Admission is free.

The most common fossil found at Mineral Wells Fossil Park are the stalks of crinoids (sea lilies). While crinoids may look like weird plants, they are actually animals. There are likely dozens of species found here, each with their own design and ornamentation. Some even have spikes.

Small zip bags or nail aprons are good for small finds and keeping things organized. Knee pads or patches are recommended for crawling around.

The park has no shade, so during the hot summer months visiting in the early morning and in the evenings is recommended. Be sure to bring water to drink and snacks with you; none are available at the park. The park has primitive restrooms. There is no running water.

Enter and exit collecting area at designated points only. Area has dangerous drop offs, steep slopes and loose soil. Encounters with dangerous insects/animals are possible.

From www.mineralwellsfossilpark.com; via Stoney Statements 7/14



WHAT ARE DENDRITES?

Dendrites - crystalline, black, fern-like patterns that resemble forest scenes - have captured the fancy of collectors for centuries. Dendrites produce an amazing original work of art by Mother Nature.

You may have heard the term dendrite or more likely the adjective, dendritic, used when describing a gemstone and wondered exactly what it was. They are attractive patterns, usually black or dark brown that are seen in many types of gemstone material. They are most often associated with agates but are sometimes found in quartz, opal, limestone and other stones. They are sometimes called picture stone or painted stone. The patterns occur naturally due to the presence of iron and manganese oxides. Dendrites are the branch-like formations of manganese oxide crystallizing within the stone.

Metaphysically, these mineral dendrites symbolize growth or change. The word dendrite comes from the Greek word for "tree" because a dendritic inclusion in a stone looks like a branching tree or at least like some type of plant life. They are often said to look like ferns or moss and many people mistakenly speculate that they are fossil imprints of moss. Actually dendrites are inclusions of manganese crystals. They are formed when manganese rich water seeps into tiny crevices in rocks and the manganese crystals are deposited in intricate branching patterns.

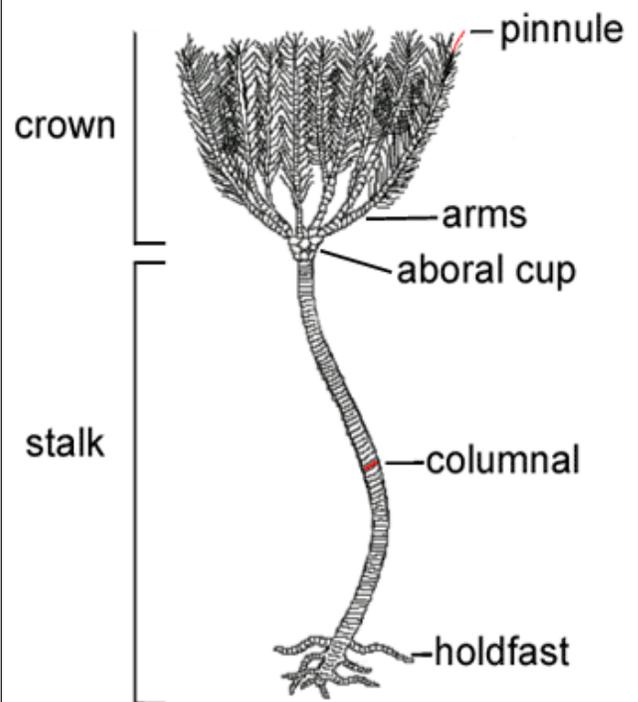
(Source ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS June 2010, via Glacial Drifter July 2014; via Stoney Statements, 7/14)



CRINOIDS

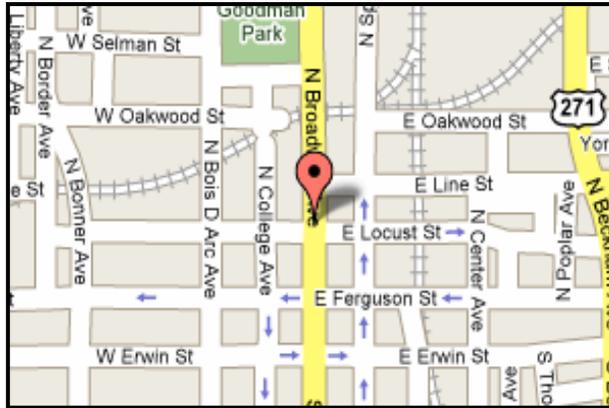
Crinoids live in the sea. Their name is derived from kri-noeides (Greek) which means 'like a lily'. They are also called sea lilies or feather-stars.

Crinoids are animals despite their name. They are related to starfish and echinoids. These often have 5 fold symmetry. Via Stoney Statements, 7/14



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Kinney Polve 8665 CR 373 D Henderson, TX 75654	903-646-3189
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CLUB ADDRESS FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES:	East Texas Gem & Mineral Society P. O. BOX 132532 Tyler, TX 75713-2532	



THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Feel free to use contents and graphics for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.

**Purpose of the
East Texas Gem &
Mineral Society**

Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts. The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

Annual dues are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.50 for juniors.

Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor 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 this is the best way to reach me. Thank you... SB



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