



# ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2014

## Coming Shows, 2014

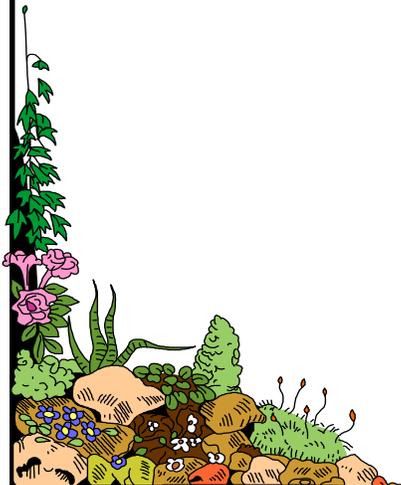
April 12-13  
Waco, TX  
Waco G&MS  
Extraco Events Ctr.

April 17-20  
Alpine, TX  
Chihuahua G&MS  
Alpine Civic Ctr.

May 24-25  
Fort Worth, TX  
Fort Worth G&MS  
Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month has been a busy time for me, trying to keep track of all the club activities and getting my new workshop built. The building is just about finished, now I need to complete the inside. Hope to be finished by the end of May. This will be a good place to hold some of our Lapidary/Jewelry Group meetings. And as you all know the weather hasn't helped at all. Well, Spring is almost here, the weather will be warming up, and I'm ready to get out there and do so rock hunting.

Randy Harmon's field trip for March 22nd, we'll be going the Coleman Miller Mine near Hot Springs Village, Arkansas to hunt Quartz crystals. On April 19th we'll be heading to a site near Mason, Texas to hunt Topaz crystals. Give Randy a call, if you need more information or have any ideas for future hunts.

The 2014 Tyler Mini Maker Faire, at The Discovery Science Place, is on March 29, and the ETGMS will have a booth. Setup is at 7 AM. Members interested in helping during this event, contact me. We will give the public a hands on opportunity make rock critters and gem trees. Also we will demonstrate wire wrapping. This is a good opportunity to get more public interest in our club. More than 1000 people attended the Faire last year.

Don't forget the Rock Swap is coming up on April 5th, at Fun Forest Park, in Tyler.

And another reminder, we have the Tyler Library display reserved for May. I would like to see other members get involved when we set up the display in May. There are a lot of talented members, and I would like to show off some of your beautiful creations, and items you have collected to the public.

The set up day will be May 1st. If you have items to show, but can't make it to the library on that day, we can help you.

Kinney Polve





## MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met March 3, 2014 at the Discovery Science Center in Tyler. Six members and two new members attended the meeting in 23 degree weather with icy roads. Pres. Kinney Polve called the meeting to order at 6:45. Terry Roberts made a motion to adopt the previous month's minutes as published, Becky Whisenant 2nd and motion passed.

There was no treasurer's report.

Terry Roberts gave an update on the lapidary group. They had a demonstration by Mitch Young on using rocks and seashells to make unique pendants. The next meeting of the group will be Saturday, March 8th and will be a presentation on making gem trees.

Under new business, Kinney reported that the table banner for the club's booth at the Maker's Faire will be ready this week. The Maker's Faire will be March 29 at the Discovery Science Center.

Kinney gave a field trip report for Randy Harmon. There will be a trip March 22 to the Miller Coleman quartz mine north of Hot Springs. Look for details in this newsletter or call Randy at (903) 539-0975.

On April 19, a field trip to look for topaz is scheduled for a ranch near Mason. This will be discussed at the April meeting.

Kinney reminded everyone about the rock swap scheduled for April 5 in Tyler. Everyone is invited.

Under new business, the annual meeting of the American Federation will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma in July.

Two new members were welcomed to the meeting from Rusk, Teresia & Scotty Johnson.

Business meeting adjourned and door prizes drawings were held, with two unnamed members of the Polve family holding most of the winning tickets!

After a break, Kinney presented a program on making wire gem trees. Some of the examples were very artistic and beautiful.

The meeting adjourned early due to the weather.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant



## CLUB NEWS

Keith Harmon has donated several boxes of old lapidary magazines to the club for members to borrow. These are currently stored at Kinney Polve's house.

Bill Faulkner and Terry Roberts would appreciate hearing from group members on topics that would be of interest. We have many talented members in the group and could probably find someone to give a presentation on the subject. We need everyone's input so that we can keep the club meetings interesting with lots of participation and discussions by the members.



### LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP

The Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at Bill Faulkner's house on March 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 11 members attending. The plan was that we would make gem trees, but that quickly changed when I pulled out a Tree of Life pendant I had made. I demonstrated making a pendant, Bill Faulkner also got started making him one, and the rest of the group watched and took notes. After we finished the pendants, I gave a quick demonstration on making gem trees. Everybody enjoyed the meeting, and some rush to Hobby Lobby for supplies. There will not be a L/J Group meeting in April, due to the Alpine, Texas rock hunts that Terry Roberts will be attending. The next L/J Group meeting will be May 10<sup>th</sup> at Terry's house. Kinney Polve



### FIELD TRIP REPORT

At 9 AM, on February 22, ETGMS members met at Keith Harmon's house for a Mineral (Rock) Identification Class and Field Trip. Keith has about 45 tons of rough material, so it wasn't hard to find some rocks to identify. Keith walked us through his rock pile, identifying material as we went along. After about an hour or so, we broke off from the class to find us some good cutting material. Everybody had a great time and found some good material to carry with them. Kinney





### FIELD TRIP INFO

I am sending this update info for Randy Harmon. There is a field trip scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> to the Coleman Miller Quartz Mine near Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. All members interested in going on this field trip should contact Randy Harmon at 903-539-0975 or me, so we can get a head count for the mine, and contact you if there is a cancellation due to weather. There is a field trip scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>, at a ranch near Mason, Texas to hunt Topaz crystals. Randy and I took a road trip down there in early March, to get a lay of the land. It is located next to a pay-to-dig site, should be a good place to hunt. Anybody attending a ETGMS Field Trip must be a current member. Thanks, Kinney



### HINTS AND TIPS



- Stones sometimes develop fine, thread-like scratches while being polished. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polishing buff. (one grain will do it). To clean, hold a strip of soft plywood firmly against the buff. The grit will imbed itself in the wood, leaving the buff clean. I have also heard that a rubber eraser will work too; also a crepe rubber shoe sole.

- For that glass finish on tiger eye, polish once, dry the stone then put a drop of vinegar on it. Let it dry a few minutes, then give it a second polish. Hmmm...

From The Redstick Rockhound News via the SCFMS Newsletter Jan-Feb '14 via Fredericksburg Rockhounds news; via Stoney Statements 3/14



### CENTRAL ARKANSAS GEM MINERAL AND GEOLOGY SOCIETY APRIL SWAP

The Central Arkansas Gem Mineral and Geology Society is having the 2014 annual swap meet on April 12th at Burns Park in North Little Rock. We would like to invite your club and members to attend. The swap is for rock related items only, buy, sell and trade or just have a good time. There is no charge to attend or to set up. Set up your tables or tailgate, there is plenty of room. Restrooms and playgrounds for kids are located next to the swap area.

The swap is from 8AM till 4PM on Saturday, April 12th at the Elder Johnson Pavilion next to the Visitor Center in Burns Park. Take exit 150 (Military Drive) from I40 and go ¼ mile north, take the first road to the West and go to the end of this road.

Please pass this information along to your club members. Hope to see you there. For more information contact Mike Austen at steelpony@aol.com or 501-868-4553.



## FOSSILS



Fossils (from Latin fossus, literally "having been dug up") are the preserved remains or traces of animals, plants, and other organisms from the remote past. The totality of fossils, both discovered and undiscovered, and their placement in fossiliferous (fossil-containing) rock formations and sedimentary layers (strata) is known as the fossil record.

The study of fossils across geological time, how they were formed, and the evolutionary relationships between taxa (phylogeny) are some of the most important functions of the science of paleontology.

Such a preserved specimen is called a "fossil" if it is older than some minimum age, most often the arbitrary date of 10,000 years ago. Hence, fossils range in age from the youngest at the start of the Holocene Epoch to the oldest from the Archaean Eon several billion years old. The observations that certain fossils were associated with certain rock strata led early geologists to recognize a geological timescale in the 19th century. The development of radiometric dating techniques in the early 20th century allowed geologists to determine the numerical or "absolute" age of the various strata and thereby the included fossils.

Like extant organisms, fossils vary in size from microscopic, such as single bacterial cells only one micrometer in diameter, to gigantic, such as dinosaurs and trees many meters long and weighing many tons. A fossil normally preserves only a portion of the deceased organism, usually that portion that was partially mineralized during life, such as the bones and teeth of vertebrates, or the chitinous or calcareous exoskeletons of invertebrates. Preservation of soft tissues is rare in the fossil record. Fossils may also consist of the marks left behind by the organism while it was alive, such as the footprint or feces (coprolites) of a reptile. These types of fossil are called trace fossils (or ichnofossils), as opposed to body fossils. (Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fossil>)

From The Glacial Drifter, The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, March, 2014; via Stoney Statements 3/14





The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone.

### AQUAMARINE

The name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea. This

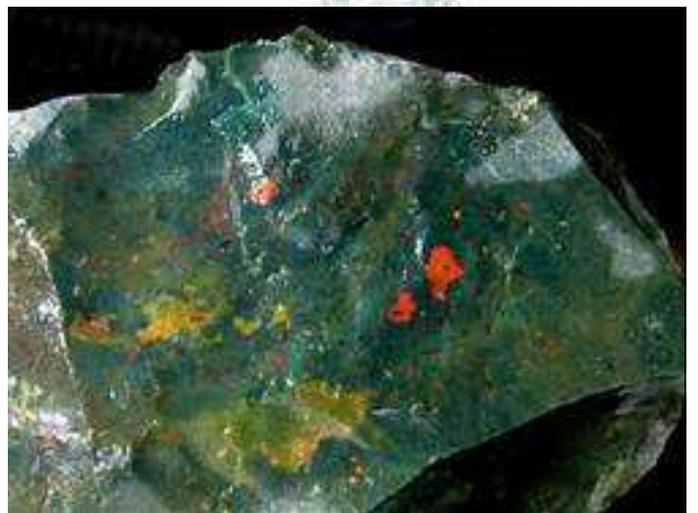
gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.



### BLOODSTONE

The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers — especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the martyr's stone as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. Generally found

embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia. Via Stoney Statements 3/14





## BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

### POLISHING WHEELS

In the finishing sequence there's a step called pre-polishing, between sanding and buffing, and one of the most effective tools I've found to help here is the little silicone wheels used in a Foredom or Dremel. They come in several different abrasive levels and several different shapes. The wheels are color coded to denote their abrasive level. Different shapes (coin, knife, cylinder, point, etc) are available to match the geometry of the area being cleaned up.

For a starter, I'd suggest a medium, a fine and an extra fine wheel in both the coin shape and the knife-edge shape. The thicker coin shapes are particularly handy.

Be sure to get a few extra mandrels so you'll have one of each wheel shape mounted and ready to go.



Cylinder shapes are nice for doing the inside of rings. Knife-edge shapes clean up the base of bezels quickly. Most jewelry catalogs carry these wheels, but often the color codes don't match between different manufacturers.

### RESHAPING SILICONE WHEELS

Silicone polishing wheels in the Dremel or Foredom are a great time saver, but after using them a bit they often need to be reshaped.

This is particularly true with the knife-edge wheels.

The natural thought is to grab one of your files and hold it up against the rotating wheel to reshape it. But this gives you a problem. The grinding grit in the silicone wheel is much harder than steel, meaning that you end up grinding down the teeth of your file.

The best way to reshape your polishing wheels is to use a diamond file. If you don't have one and must use a steel file, I sacrifice the area of the file that is closest to the handle. That's an area which is not used in normal benchwork.

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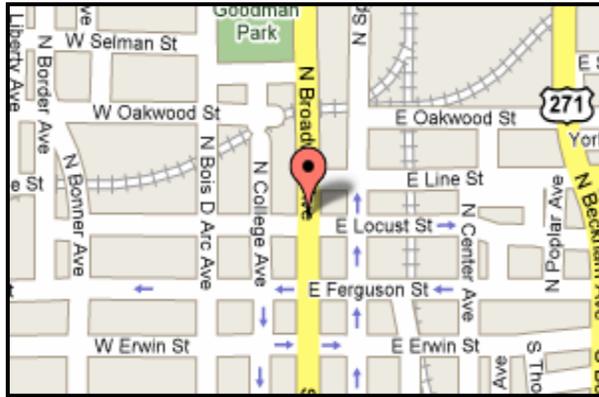
Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Note: If you distribute your newsletter electronically, I'd appreciate the above title of the book to be a live link to <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>



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**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.**

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 me as this is the best way to reach me.

**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.

Thank you... SB



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