



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



PAGE 1

VOLUME 38

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012

Coming Shows, 2012

Jan. 27 - 29
TYLER, TX
East Texas G&MS
Rose Garden Ctr.

Feb. 18 - 19
GEORGETOWN, TX
Williamson Co. G&MS
San Gabriel Park

Feb. 18 - 19
PLAINVIEW, TX
Hi-Plains G&MS
Oliver Liner Ctr.

Feb. 25 - 26
PASADENA, TX
Clear Lake G&MS
7902 Fairmont Parkway

Next meeting is February 6!

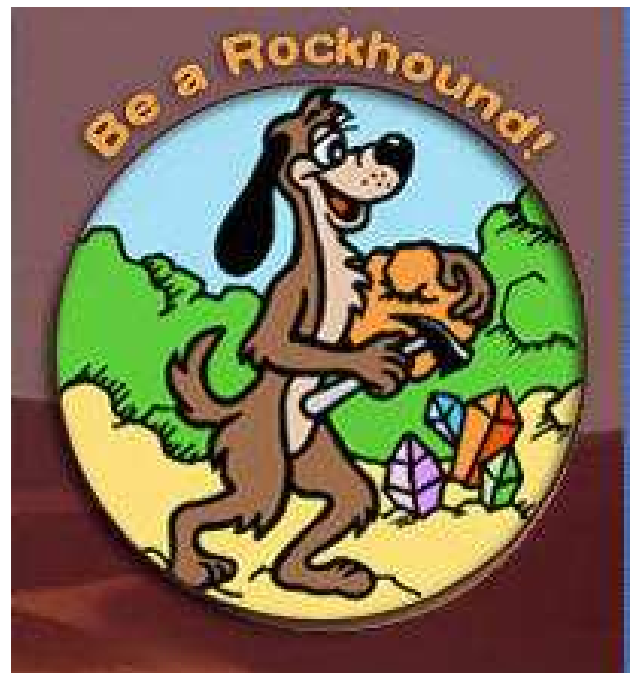
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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4. Amber continued
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7. Kids cont./Tips/Dues are due
8. Officers and directions

Presidents Message:

By the time you receive and read this Newsletter we will be hosting our annual Gem & Mineral show at the Tyler Rose Garden Center January 27-29. We will discuss the results of our show at the next club meeting Monday evening February 6th. We had a fantastic response and turnout for our show work day on Saturday January 14th. I didn't count heads, but I believe we had the best attendance ever. Some of our club ladies placed mailing labels and stamps on more than four thousand show invitation cards. We ended up with a tremendous amount of rock, mineral and fossil specimen donations for use on the Wheel of Fortune Game table, and the silent auction table. Also, some club members assembled polished rock items for the Wheel game, while others hot glued silent auction creations together. When it was all said and done, we had two full pallets of material made up for the show. So, thank you everyone for your willingness to donate your time and collected material for the benefit of the club. Let's go and have our best show ever.

Don Campbell



JANUARY MINUTES

Don Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. A motion was made to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter. Becky Whisenant approved, and Susan Burch seconded the motion. It was voted and passed. Since LSU was playing we were without our Treasurer, but Don Campbell did read the Money Market account.

Field trip, it is still a GO for February 18, 2012 to Mason Texas, but you have to commit By February 1 @ 9pm central standard time...to mtwilson@prodigy.net
Those that have already put a deposit, the field chair have recognized you, and you have a place. Those that haven't there are 5 openings left.

Don Campbell made several announcements with plaques for service. The first was to Penny for being the Clubs Secretary from 2009-2011. Rip Criss was unavailable to accept his but will be at the Show workday, and will be presented at that time! Susan Burch was recognized for her continued work on our newsletter. She has been doing it for 6 years!
ETGMC talked about the Facebook page, location of Administrator will need to be contacted so that an active member to take over.

Lots of drawings for the door prizes, one (whom will be nameless) lost her ticket, but ended up with a Trilobite cast at the end.....

Keith Harmon, our show Chairperson talked about the show, and the sign up sheets that were presented at the tables. Don also suggested we try to consider a showcase.
Dealer dinner is @6:30pm...confusion about last year, led to discussion. But folks 6:30 pm it is!
Saturday 10-6
Sunday 10-5
There was discussion on the ETGMS workday, at 8am.
We need donations of rocks for the wheel, and the auction table.
Tools besides yourselves were: drimel and hot glue guns!

Susan Burch (our editor) talked about everyone submitting articles for the newsletter.
Folks, it's our newsletter, the least we can do is give it some substance!

There was a 30-minute program on the Tucson Show.
Meeting was adjourned just before 9, and everyone went home happy.

Submitted by,
Laura Wilson



FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

The Feb 6th club meeting program will be: Fossil collecting in the Eagle Ford Shale by Don Campbell.



PEBBLE PUPS PUZZLE

By G.E.M. Suess

Complete these sentences [write the words on a separate piece of paper], and you will turn ROCK into GOLD! Each word in the list changes just one letter. Answer to Pebble Pup Puzzle is on Page 7. Hey! Don't look now. Work the puzzle first before you look. Thanks.

1. Start with a _ _ _ _ _ .
2. That hat on the _ _ _ _ _ is mine.
3. The pack on his _ _ _ _ _ is full of agates.
4. The mule did not _ _ _ _ _ on the way home.
5. A man who is _ _ _ _ _ does not need a comb.
6. Don't be _ _ _ _ _ when you talk to your parents.
7. Now you have _ _ _ _ _ !

From SCFMS Newsletter, May-June 2011; Via Fredericksburg Rockhounds newsletter, Oct. 2011



TERTIARY AMBER

by Diana Nelson

The tertiary period was a time of luxuriant vegetation. Ginkgo, laurel, magnolia and cypress flourished deep into the Arctic, while the Antarctic was host to ferns as well as deciduous trees. All the continents were covered with a green carpet. The most common plant fossils come from an early Tertiary conifer (*Pinus succinifera*) which looked much like a present-day pine. This tree formed great forests in the North Sea region and especially along the coast of East Prussia. The forests were a curious mixture of tropical and temperate-zone plants. Along with the pines grew oaks, beeches, chestnuts, palms, ferns and cinnamon trees.

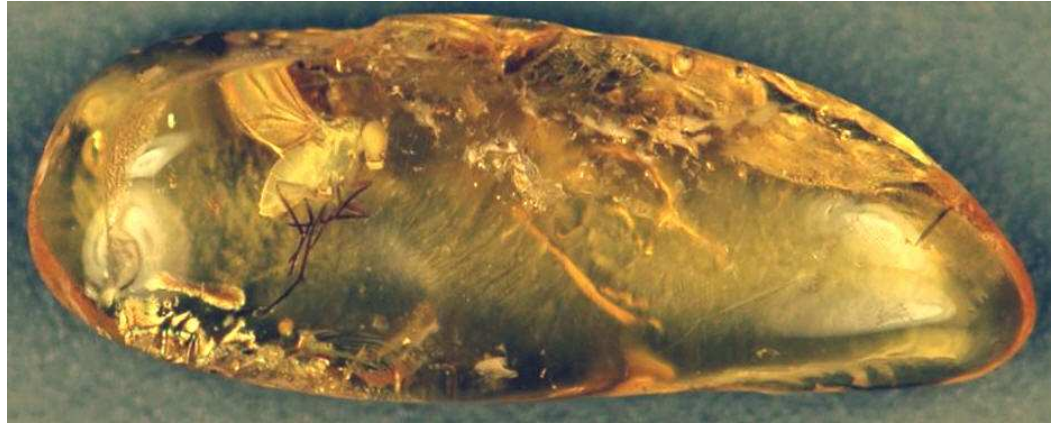
It is possible that the pines suffered from disease for their secretions of resin is estimated at between two and five million tons. Today they lie deep beneath the sea in a stratum called "blue earth." Year after year, the sea has washed small and large quantities of resin out of this layer and cast it upon the shore.

For thousands of years this amber (which had existed fifty to seventy million years before) was regarded as an ornament almost as precious as the most precious stone. Amber trade routes led from the Baltic and the North Seas to the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Amber jewelry has been found in urns from the Bronze Age, Mycenaean,

Continued on page 4



Greek and Roman ruins. The Phoenicians even carried the ancient amber trade to the Orient. The fossil resin has played an enormous part in economic life. For centuries the amber monopoly was in



the hands of the Teutonic Order. In the time of the Great Elector the monopoly passed to the state of Prussia. From 1811 to 1945 collecting amber became a matter of private enterprise. The collectors fished it out of the sea, dug it out of the ground, and extracted it with huge dredges. In this way some six hundred tons of raw amber was mined annually. Even so, this is only about two percent of the amber in the blue earth beneath the ocean bottom.

In antiquity, amber was fashioned into necklaces, rings, pendants and all sorts of carved figures. In the Middle Ages rosary beads, candleholders, bowls, small boxes, chess pieces and household altars were made of polished amber.

This resin has also provided some of the chief evidence of small animal life fifty to fifty-five million years ago. Insects and other such tiny animals were caught by amber resin and enclosed with it, so that they have been preserved exactly as they were at the moment of death. The fact that insects could be enclosed in amber was known to the ancient Greeks and Romans. Such pieces were sought after and fetched high prices.

Termites, ants, praying mantises, sap beetles and spiders were among the victims of the resin. These organisms were suddenly caught and killed in the midst of life. Thus amber provides us with a fine picture of ancient times. Predatory insects stinging and eating their prey, locust females laying eggs, butterflies emerging from the cocoon, spiders in their webs and with silk-wrapped flies are some of the scenes that have been found enclosed in amber, and birds would sometimes lose feathers in the sticky resin. This shows us that there were nuthatches, woodpeckers, and thrushes living in the Tertiary pine forests as well as sawbills and motmots which today inhabit only the tropics.

These amber pines which have left behind so full a record of the past became extinct in the Eocene Epoch. What has remained of them along with a few needles and seeds is their beautiful, shining golden resin.

FROM Breccia, 06/87, via COBB-L-STONES 04/94, via THE GLACIAL DRIFTER, 04/98; via STONEY STATEMENTS 09/11



What Makes Petrified Wood Colorful? Author unknown

It is not wood that makes petrified wood colorful, but the chemistry of the petrifying ground-water. Minerals such as manganese, iron, and copper were in the water/mud during the petrification process. These minerals give petrified wood a variety of color ranges.

Quartz crystals are color-less, but when iron is added to the process the crystals become stained with a yellow or red tint.

Following is a list of minerals and related color hues: Copper-green/blue; Cobalt-green/blue Chromium-green/blue; Manganese-pink; Carbon- black; Iron Oxides-red, brown.

Via the Rock Collector 10/11;via Stoney Statements 10/11



Biggs Jasper

One of the more recently discovered picture rock materials. The first piece was found about 1960 in a creek bot-tom south of Biggs Junction, Oregon. It is one of the more distinctive jaspers even though it lacks brilliant colors, its design is unique among siliceous rocks. It takes an excellent polish.

This jasper seems to have developed from the muds of short-lived streams that evolved on the surface of a cool basalt terrain. The raw materials (plastic col-loids, silica, clay and iron) came from the weathering of igneous rocks and were de-positied in the settling basins of stream channels. Heat and pressure from vol-canic activity then served to form jasper, small creeping motions led to the marbled rosettes and picture designs.

*~Condensed from Shawne Slate 12/08,
via the Rock Licker, The Rock Rattler
1/94, Glacial Drifter 2&3/01, The
Rockytier 4/09;via Stone Chipper 05/09*



ATTRACTING KIDS TO YOUR SOCIETY

In March, I was invited by the Mother Lode Mineral Society to moderate a Juniors Activities Roundtable at their annual club show in Turlock, California. We had such a great time exchanging ideas with juniors leaders from several clubs in northern California that I'm hoping we might hold a similar roundtable at the upcoming AFMS/CFMS Show & Convention in June. In the meantime, over the course of the next three months, I'll share some key components of that roundtable discussion.

Those three key components revolved around the following topics: How do we attract kids to our clubs? How do we then form and implement a juniors' program? And finally, where can we turn for ready-made sources of kids' activities?

I'll start this month with how to attract kids to your society. Growing a youth program presupposes one very big thing, namely, that you already have a roomful of kids in your club. Many clubs tell me this is not the case. Some may have one or two junior members or none at all. How do you reverse that? Here are a few suggestions.

Start locally. If you have a single child, you have a start! Encourage that child's parents to network with friends who have kids and bring their friends along to the next meeting. Just make sure you have something exciting for the kids at that meeting, along with rock, mineral, or fossil prizes, posters, or activity sheets for them to walk home with.

Make your show fun for kids—and follow up! If your club has committed to a kids program, demonstrate that commitment at your very next show by making kids the show theme and centerpiece. Have a large Kids Booth or Activity Area and heavily promote a theme of kids' activities in all your show publicity. (You're also more likely to pique the attention of the local newspaper and get a nice pre-show write-up if you focus on how your show is family-oriented.) Build in touch-stones, interactive displays, and activities, and involve kids in other ways (helping to run the kids booth, competing for ribbons or other prizes with displays, etc.). Finally, in the kids area, have informational handouts about your club and its kids activities readily available, along with sign-up sheets for parents interested in more info—and have a club member follow up immediately after the show to invite them to your very next meeting, workshop, or other event.

Maintain a focus on kids. Most newspapers publish (either in print or on their web site) a listing of club news and forthcoming events, and many clubs will put in an announcement listing when and where the next meeting is and the guest speaker for the night. Take this a step further by including a line on a highlighted kids' activity for the night. At every club meeting and at every club event (club show, picnic, holiday dinner), make sure time is devoted to kids, with an activity, a rock give-away, a show-and-tell, or anything else that tells them they, too, have a place in your club. And have a tab in your club web site devoted to highlighting youth activities in your club—and perhaps providing a profile of your "Junior Member of the Month" or "Junior of the Year."

Create and circulate a Kids Club flyer. The "Coquina Kids" of the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society in Florida have created a wonderfully colorful, picture- and photo-filled three-fold flyer highlighting their kids activities, with a membership application form on the back fold. Create one for your club and then have a supply at your Welcome table and Kids Booth at your show, at club meetings, and spread around the community—at the library, in schools, at Boys and Girls Clubs, at the YMCA, and elsewhere.



Go to where the kids are. With your Kids Club flyer in hand, take a supply and reach out to Boy and Girl Scout troops, Big Brother/Big Sister programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA facilities, etc. Reach out to schools and forge connections with area science teachers. Build a following and a community among teachers by maintaining an e-mail directory, giving teachers free rock samples and posters, offering to give classroom talks, etc. And don't forget your local library. Forge ties with the librarians by donating books (library budgets are being cut to the bone in today's economy), by putting a club display in the lobby, or by offering to help with a summer reading program with books like Julie the Rockhound.

Key to attracting kids to your club or society? Make it fun!

~Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

Article and photo reprinted from the AFMS May 2010 Newsletter; via Stone Chipper 06/10



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There's plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.?

INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at Radio Shack, a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight.

For an example of the dimmer and soldering iron, see www.harborfreight.com items # 43060 and # 47887

Look for a soldering iron of around 25-30 watts. File the tip to the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

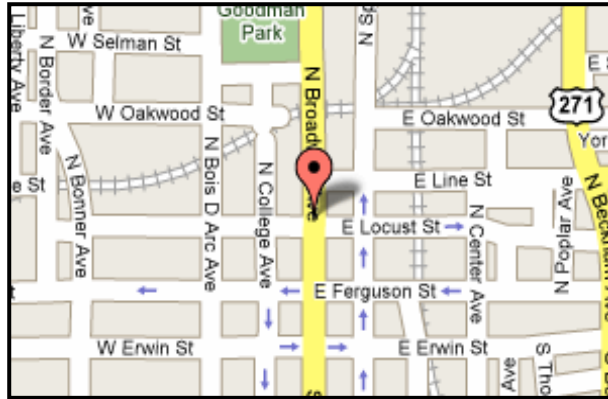


2012 Dues are Due

We all need to pay our dues for 2012 to be current members of the club. Each of us is an important part of our society and of the South Central Federation. Membership and participation in this club helps to further the earth science of future generations. This might just be your last newsletter if you haven't renewed your dues.

CLUB OFFICERS

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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:	Your name could be HERE!!! Volunteer Today!	
SHOW CHAIRMAN:	Keith Harmon 8316 Oxford St. Tyler, TX 75703	903-581-4068
CLUB ADDRESS:	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.

Thank you... SB



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