



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1 VOLUME 38 TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2012

Coming Shows, 2012

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

Mar. 03 - 04
ROBSTOWN, TX
Gulf Coast G&MS
Regional Fairground

Mar. 03 - 04
BIG SPRING, TX
Prospectors Club
Howard Co. Fair Barn

Mar. 17 - 18
LIVE OAK, TX
Southwest G&MS
Live Oak Civic Ctr.
8101 Pat Booker Rd.

Apr. 14 - 15
ABILENE, TX
Central TX G&MS
Abilene Civic Ctr.
North 6th & Pine

Apr 20 - 22
ALPINE, TX
Chihuahuan Desert G&MC
Alpine Civic Center

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of our club members who worked so hard to make our 2012 Gem & Mineral Show a huge success have recovered. Many worked every day to bring it all together, make it happen, and tear it down and pack it away for another year. We appreciate everyone's hard work. The show could not have happened with out everyone's help. Our total attendance this year was 2854 people. Last year we had 2424 folks attend. We will share more information about the details of the show at the March 5th club meeting. All of our dealers said they had a good show and would like to return next year. If you have any suggestions on how to make our show better, please let us know so we can consider your ideas.

We had several people join our club as a result of attending the show. Please make these new folks welcome at our monthly meetings and other activities.

Hopefully with milder weather in coming in March and April, we will organize some field trips for all to enjoy. If you have any suggestions for trips, please let me know and we will see if we can make it happen.

Again, thank you all for making our 2012 show a success.

Don Campbell

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THANK YOU!

I want to thank all of the club members for the wonderful award plaque you gave me for being secretary of the club these past few years. It reminds me each day of the friends I have in east Texas and the fun and learning experiences we've shared. Thank you again for thinking of me. Don't know when I'll get to move back home but when I do, will see you at the meetings!

Penny Hawkins



FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by President Don Campbell. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January meeting as written in the newsletter, the motion received a second, a vote was cast and the minutes were accepted.

The treasurer was not present so we did not have a report.

Don then asked if anyone had information about field trips and mentioned that the upcoming field trip to Mason, Texas, sign-up deadline had passed. Colleen Hayes recounted a recent scouting trip to Mt. Ida, AR for a new mine to collect quartz as a possibility for a future field trip.

The next course of business was to discuss the results of our recent annual show. Attendance for the three days totaled 2254 tickets, excluding the school children that attended on Friday.

The junior prize was won by Martin Burns and he had picked up his prize, which was a rock tumbler with grit and stones to tumble, at the show. The adult prize was won by Nelda Maurer and she came to the club meeting to receive her prize. The adult grand prize was a rock art picture (made entirely of rock pieces and pigments) in a rock frame.

Jack Shull mentioned that the bidding this year at the silent auction was intense and several people were upset that they were overbid after the bell.

Don remarked that we need to be aware and watch for problems.

We had several guests and new members that joined as a result of attending the show.

Door prizes were drawn.

Don Campbell gave a great presentation on the Fossils of Eagle Ford Shale Formation of Texas. The presentation included geological maps of Texas that highlighted the exposed formation location in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Also, photos of the area and Don brought his personal collection of fossils that he collected from the formation to show as examples.

Jack mentioned that Ross Perot Nature and Science Museum is scheduled to open in the Dallas area next year and will have a great fossil and mineral collection.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by acting Secretary, Colleen Hayes



MARCH 5TH MEETING PROGRAM

We will show part of a DVD program which highlights the 2010 Munich Germany Gem & Mineral show. This is similar to the DVD we have watched of the Tucson AZ show, but is very interesting and you'll see beautiful specimens that are out of this world.



PICTURE REQUEST

If anyone has pictures from the show, a field trip, school demonstration, etc., I'd be interested in receiving them to possibly include in future issues of the Rock-N-Rose. E-mail them to rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com.

Susan



ANNUAL SHOW A SUCCESS!

Our overall attendance was great and the amount of folks who responded to the newspaper articles (three of them, two in the Tyler Morning Telegraph and one in the Cherokeean Herald) and the wonderful TV coverage we got from KLTV was impressive. If you missed the TV shot as I did, you may still be able to go to KLTV.com and find it. Each year it seems the Tyler Morning Telegraph and KLTV out do themselves from previous years coverage.

As show chairman, I want to thank everyone in the club for the great response we had this year for our show. Due to you all being willing to help and pitch in we had a very successful show. Without you doing the work and attending to the duty stations we could not put the show on. I especially want to thank Becky for stepping up and taking charge of the kids on Friday again this year. We had approximately 600 of the 5th graders from Tyler ISD attend. That was from only seven schools. The response from the science coordinator for the school district was enthusiastic appreciation. Then we had a bunch of home schooled kids come after 2 P.M. and Becky had them all to herself. The Dealer dinner was a great success again this year. All I can say is you folks can COOK!!

I received a ton of compliments from attendees about the show and our club members being kind and helpful. That is a sure indicator that we as a club are doing what is right and good for the community. I also ask each dealer and demonstrator at the end of the show for comments and 100% of the dealers are enthusiastic about our club show, members, dinner and attendance. Trust me when I say that these folks are nothing but candid about a show to another dealer. All of our dealers are much more than happy with our show and have vigorously stated their desire to come again every year.

All I can say is great job and thank you again. Keith Harmon



At left: The adult grand prize winner Nelda Maurer, being presented her winnings by Don Campbell.....the prize was a rock picture with a rock frame.

Photo by Colleen Hayes

At right: Former club President, Robert (Rip) Criss, holds up the plaque that was presented to him for his several years of service as president.

Photo by Susan Burch





JANUARY 14TH SHOW WORKDAY

A 'rock critter' made at the show workday, always a popular attraction on the Wheel of Fortune game.



Several club members working hard—gluing wiggly eyes and feathers onto rocks, attaching bales onto pretty stones to be placed on the Wheel of Fortune game board.



A group creating 'rock art', using cedar blocks and cholla cactus as bases for rock slabs, 'rock critters' and specimens to be used in the silent auction.





CLUB MEMBERS—GEMS, MINERALS AND FOSSILS DISPLAYED AT THE SHOW



Upper left: Pictures on rocks

**Upper right: Mineral specimens
By Stone Crystals**



**Left: Trilobite fossils in matrix
By Don Campbell**



**Middle left: Mineral specimens
By Don Campbell**



**Bottom left: Wire-sculpture jewelry display
By Susan Burch**



Sunstone Theft at Tucson

Tucson police investigate major theft from gem show vendor. Thieves stole thousands of sunstones worth about \$900,000 dollars.

<http://www.kgun9.com/news/local/138859364.html>

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\$400 Million Emerald

For a glimpse into the emerald gem trade, from South American mines to storefront dealers, the National Geographic Channel is airing a program called "The 400 Million Dollar Emerald". Subject is called the Bahia emerald.

Some say it's the largest ever found, weighing in at 840 pounds and containing roughly 180,000 carats. Unearthed in Brazil in 2001, the Bahia emerald has an incredible history that fits its massive size. It spent months in a submerged bank vault in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and was even posted on eBay with a buy it now price of \$75 million. Others point out that the real stone is presently in lock-up pending litigation, and the piece shown in the NatGeo story is just a mock-up that is far more spectacular than the real stone. Regardless of what Bahia really looks like, the video gives an interesting view of how emeralds are found cut and traded. <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/explorer/400-million-dollar-emerald-pictures/>



Central Arkansas Rock, Gem and Mineral Club annual swap meet

The Central Arkansas Rock, Gem and Mineral Club of Little Rock is having the 2012 annual swap meet on April 14TH this year at Burns Park in N. Little Rock. We would like to invite your club and members to attend. The idea is to try and get rockhounds from all over the area to come together for fun, trading and great fellowship. The Central Arkansas club along with other clubs from the area will have rocks, minerals, fossils and other related items for sale or trade. Bring along your own items for free identification or trading. Admission is free, so just come and see what kinds of wonderful items can be found in our state. You can talk to some great people with a lot of knowledge of geology and the hobby of rock collecting. You can get information about or join the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society.

There is no charge to attend or set up a table for trading or selling. There is a large covered area with picnic tables and also more space in the parking lot for those who want to tailgate. Indoor restrooms are next to the location along with a playground for children. Snacks and drinks will be available. Bring something to trade or just come to look around and meet other rockhounds, you are sure to have a great time.

The swap is from 8 A.M. till 5 P.M. Take exit 150 (Military Drive) from Interstate 40 and go north ¼ mile and take the first left and go about ¼ mile to the end of the road. The swap is at the Elder Johnson Pavilion just past the park visitor center. There are signs with maps located along the roads

For more information contact - Mike Austen club president 501-868-4553 or steelpony@aol.com



TEXAS FACETERS' GUILD MEET

Hi, my name is Charles McCoy and I'm a Texas faceter and a member of the TEXAS FACETERS' GUILD. I'm sending you this to inform you and your membership of the group of faceters that are involved in joining together to make our hobby or business of making rocks into gems an enjoyable time.

The Texas Faceters' Guild has been around for many years and I believe started in the Houston area. Each year we try to have four meetings to join together and talk about creating great cut gems. The next meeting is in Mason, TX, the home of our State gem. One of our members is Charles Covill who designed the lone star cut that is the State's official cut of the Mason, Texas Topaz.

On Saturday March 24, 2012, in Mason, TX we will celebrate Texas Topaz Day. The next day, Sunday March 25, is the TFG seminar.

Members of the TFG can stay Saturday evening and night at the Wild Life Lodge at **NO COST**. What a great time to enjoy talking with other faceters. The folks that are involved in presenting talks at the seminar will be at the sleep-in and other folks you may want to get to know will be there also, Will Smith from Nashville, Bob Long of Long and Steel books are a few.

Come join us for a great week end.

For more information contact: Bears10@aol.com



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS

When drilling small holes, you sometimes encounter new problems. We're talking about drills that are less than 1 mm (which is 18 gauge or .040 inches). Often the chuck will not tighten down far enough to grip a small twist drill. You can solve this two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a 3/32 shank to go into the chuck of your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.

Remember that small drills are much more prone to breaking because of too much pressure or if you tilt the drill or the workpiece when the drill is in the hole. And drilling always goes easier with a little wax or oil on the tip. Almost anything will work - Three and One, injection wax, mineral oil, Burr Life, car oil, olive oil, etc.

USING PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Remember that fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

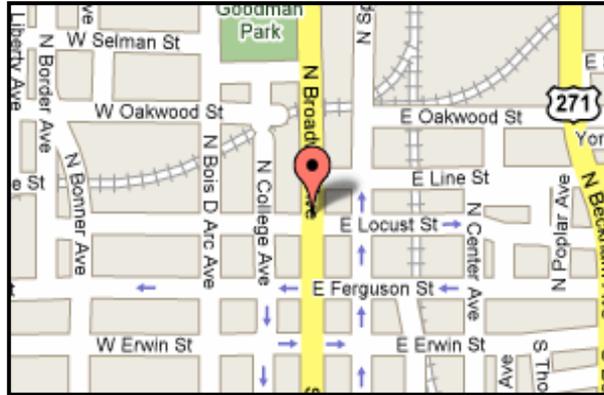
Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they will not adequately secure stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with some stones. If your stone has a sharp edge around the bottom, burnishing over the bezel will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

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

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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:	Your name could be HERE!!! Volunteer Today!	
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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.

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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