



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1

VOLUME 38

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 5

MAY 2012

Coming Shows, 2012

May 26 - 27
FORT WORTH, TX
Ft. Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.

June 1-3
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
Gem Faire Inc.
Expo Square
4145 E. 21st St.
Web site: www.gemfaire.com

June 2-3
STAFFORD, TX
The Bead Market
The Stafford Centre
10505 Cash Rd

June 9-10
LIVE OAK, TX
The Bead Market
Live Oak Civic Center
8101 Pat Booker Rd

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. May meeting minutes
3. Feldspar
4. Feldspar / Collecting / Winner
5. News / Bench Tips
6. Commemorative Stamp flyer
7. Commemorative Stamps/
App,
8. Officers and directions

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great turnout at the May 7th meeting. It was good to have several members present whom we haven't seen in a while. Terry Roberts presented a wonderful program on collecting agates in the Big Bend region of Texas. We've had several members mention that they are not receiving the newsletter either by e-mail or US mail. Thus we are going to make an effort to get our membership list updated. You will find in this news letter a club membership form. If you are a current member, please fill out the form and mail it to ETG&MS PO Box 132532 Tyler, Texas 75713-2532, or bring it to the next club meeting, or send it to my e-mail; donald1427@hotmail.com

We need everyone to do this please, because this is how we are going to update our list. My goal is to have a completed and updated list by July. After the list is finalized, we will have copies available for members at the July 2nd club meeting. For those who do not want their contact information circulated on a membership form, please indicate so, and we will not list any information other than your name. Of course we will need your contact info for the newsletter send out list.

We have several opportunities in the near future to assist The Discovery Science Place with their education programs. I mentioned these at the May meeting. I'll continue to mention these because we will need volunteers to participate. In August, we have been asked to conduct a Rock Day on Sat. August 4th. from 1-5pm. We'll need about 10 club members for this event. On Friday evening, Sept 22, we will need about 6 members to assist with a scout group Earth Science Merit Badge project. Also, there are two display cases at the museum which we have been asked to consider helping the museum spruce up. These I'll talk about more in detail at the July club meeting.

I hope every one has a safe Memorial Day weekend.

Don Campbell



JUNE 4TH MEETING PROGRAM

The June 4th club meeting will be a program on the Igneous rocks of Texas.



APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Don Campbell president called the meeting to order @ 7:04. Dale Bodark is our guest tonight. 26 members and 1 guest.

Talked About the silent auction table at the annual show, along with the idea of having two workdays before the show.

Minutes were approved by Sherrie Breedlove seconded by Sylvia Rainer.

Treasurer statement was read.

Field trip report: sulphur river on May 14. 8 members went, specimens were displayed for people that didn't get to go. Lively discussion on the bones that were collected.

Talked about the power point presentation. Terry Roberts will do an agate program night.

Gene Goar stood up and gave heartfelt thanks from the support of members and the Club at the passing of his wife, Eleanor.

Talked about workday July 28, more information will be available.

Susan Burch made the announcement that a receipt book is needed to record all payment of dues. A new membership roster was requested with email addresses. Reminder to members to update their information with Susan Burch and Jeri Kitchens. Sherrie Breedlove has offered to take help with the copies of the newsletter that will be mailed.

Discovery Science Place has requested one Saturday a month for members of the ETGMS to volunteer for the Mad Scientist program. Activities would be fluorescence, minerals, fossils, crystals. August 4, for this program.

September 22 is the day for Cub Scouts to earn their Earth Science badge.

Seashell identification will be interpreted by: Edward Nolen

Display case volunteers or donate items to the science museum. (The ETGMS is considering volunteering to arrange items in this case. Some members would have Earth Science items on loan to the museum).

Look for more information at a later date.

Drawing for door prizes: Susan Burch, Gene Goar, Jeri Kitchens, Becky Whisenant, Nicole Langston, Susan Burch & lastly Gene Goar. Short 10 minute break for refreshments. Resuming at 8:00pm.

Terry Roberts program on Walker Ranch and Agates.

The slide show presentation was very informative, with specimens and explanation of geological formations and where to collect different agates.

Meeting was adjourned @ 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wilson

Secretary



The Beauty of Feldspars by O. Grathwolhl

In spite of the fact that feldspars and feldspathoids could be termed the “Plain Janes” of the mineral realm when compared to their more glittering associates, there are still some varieties which take a worthy place in the sphere of jewelry and decorative stones. Among these are the beautiful potash feldspar varieties such as the champagne-colored orthoclase from Madagascar which is generally cut in facets; yellowish to clear moonstone that is cut in cabochon; green amazonite (microcline) and light brown sanidine that can be cut in either facets or as cabochons. Another very popular feldspar is the sky-blue hauynite of triple brilliant cut. Peristerite (albite) exhibits an intriguing iridescence on a light tan background and is cut into cabochons (laboradorite is similar feldspar).

All of these, however, are put in the shade by lapis lazuli which is an association of minerals, spangled with iron pyrites, created under contact metasomatic conditions and which, in the course of history, has often competed with gold in value. There is evidence that lapis lazuli was already being mined 6,000 years ago in the famous deposits of Badakshan (modern day Afghanistan) and found its way to the old world via the ancient caravan route. Marco Polo, the far ranging Venetian traveler, brought news of these famous mines to Europe as early as 1271.

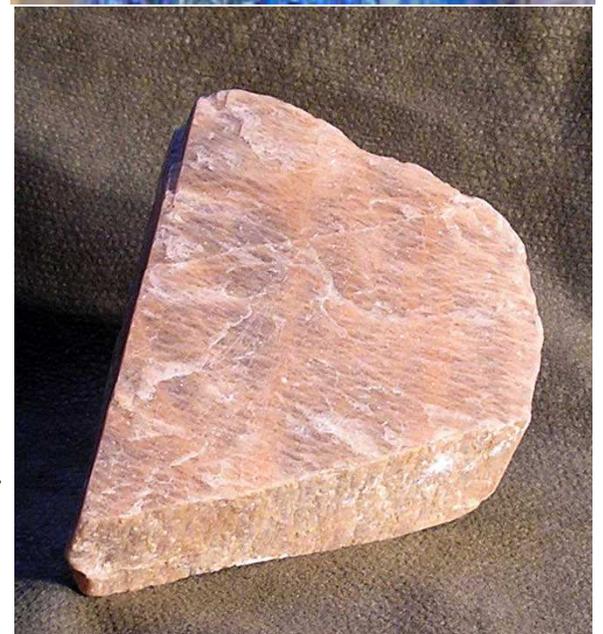
In ancient Egypt, the lapis lazuli stone (known as “chesbet”) was often framed in gold, and sacred pictures were created from crushed lapis. The death mask of Tutenkhamon is inlaid with lapis.

The Greeks and Romans cherished lapis as an exquisite gem comparing its sparkling luster to that of the star-filled night sky. It is believed that ancient writers referred to sapphire as lapis lazuli not corundum sapphire. Both Theophrastus and Pliny the Elder described the blue color as “cerulum scythian sky blue” used by artists, which was made from lapis lazuli.

During the Middle Ages, lapis lazuli was used in Byzantine art and sacred art from central Europe. It was still considered nearly as valuable as gold. From the feudal age to modern times, lapis lazuli was used for wall paneling and column decorations in many palaces. In the 17th and 18th centuries, lapis was preferred for stone work, for the decoration of fireplaces and for inlay work in combination with precious metals.

In the Czarist Russia, lapis lazuli enjoyed special favor. The beautiful ornamented lapis vases and tables in the Hermitage and the pillars of St. Isaak’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) are two such examples.

Continued on page 4.





The Badakshan deposits are still being mined today under very primitive working conditions and transportation. Other deposits are found at the southwest end of Lake Baikal in the former Soviet Union and north of Santiago, Chile (inferior quality). Lapis lazuli is now used for settings in rings, pendants and necklaces. The lapis lazuli from Chile is used for carving figurines and objects of applied arts. From Cab 'N Crystal via MINERAL MITE via THE GLACIAL DRIFTER 03/95; via Stoney Statements 4/10; Pictures via the Internet.



Rock Collecting Essentials (Reprinted, as they are Essentials)

What makes up a simple collecting kit? Beside a good geologist's hammer, heavy cloth or leather gloves, a coal chisel, a magnifying loop or glass, a pocket knife (to check hardness), old newspaper to wrap samples, and a surplus heavy army pack make a good start. Do not forget a pad and pencil to record information on your samples, since information like collecting location is sometimes very important to identification. A canteen is also a good idea since you are usually out a long time, away from your vehicle.

Special Items: Recently, there have emerged some new special tools at the local gardening center like a short handled three-pronged garden hoe backed by a broad blade pick. This is great for digging in hard or compact soil [Avoid the inexpensive ones: they have no strength — ed.].

Also, stop by an army surplus store and get a folding shovel. They are great when you expect hard digging and can be half folded to make a sort of pick.

Info Compiled by Al Pennington from the following: Personal Experience and also Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks & Minerals, 1978.

—SCFMS Newsletter, Jul.-Aug. 2011; via Fredericksburg Rockhounds newsletter, Oct. 2011



CONTEST WINNER

In March, I entered a picture of one of my displays from our annual show on a website called www.wirejewelrybootcamp.com/. They were requesting new ideas for displaying jewelry. As I had used pieces of geodes to showcase my jewelry pieces, I felt this was a great idea to share. Although, I did not realize it was a contest at the time, I was the first place winner. You never know what come of it, so get out there and share your ideas! Susan



RECENT NEWS ITEMS

METEORITE RING

Want to make your own special "out of this world" ring? Take a chunk of Gibeon meteorite, forge it into a thin strip, and cut the strip into several short lengths. Then forge weld the lengths together, twist the resulting ingot, and finally form it into a ring shape. See pics of this special wedding ring at <http://imgur.com/a/ZjCaW/all#0>

DRAGON'S BREATH

Here be dragons. And then here be the steam machine of the Dragon's Breath. If you like small working steam engines, you'll be impressed by this one created by Hans Meevis from Saint Martin. It's made entirely from silver, gold and hand carved gemstones. Runs on steam or compressed air.

<http://ganoksin.com/blog/meevis/2012/04/08/dragons-breath/>



BenchTips for the Month

STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out your silver wire and found that it's all bent up. The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit. Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band.

This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga. If you're working on thick wires and pulling hard, be sure to brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around it's base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howelite, you can use a sanding stick. But for harder cabs like jasper or agates, you have to use a diamond file or one of the ruby nail files from the drugstore.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment in the stone size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over onto the stone.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)
or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/



YOUR HELP PLEASE

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is attempting to attain Birthstones on U.S. stamps. We need you to actively support and promote the project by continuing letters or notes to the USPS. You do not have to be an AFMS member to write. Please mail your *PERSONAL* letter to:

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
US Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Room 5013
Arlington VA 22209-6432

Competition is stiff with about 50,000 proposals to the USPS annually. We are convinced that birthstone stamps, would be attractive. We and the public would use them, keep them, and we would all enjoy their beauty.

Don't you agree?



Take this sheet home as a reminder to yourself.

Personalize YOUR letter to Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

"I support the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' efforts to try to get gemstones on American stamps because": (Write you own reasons) Ideas:

1. Gems have never appeared on U.S. First Class stamps, and would be very attractive.
2. They would not be controversial.
3. Gems would continue the theme of "America's Mineral Heritage" stamps.
4. We and the public would all enjoy their beauty. Etc.

Sign and date your letter and add your address.

Stamp your envelope and mail it off to the address above! **DO IT NOW**





BIRTHSTONE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Hi all, as a child and young adult, I collected stamps. My grandmother got me started by subscribing to the 'First Edition' stamp collection. You would receive a matted metal version of the stamp and an envelope with the stamp on it. Why stamps fascinated me, I can't pin down. Perhaps it was the color and artistry. The same can somewhat be said of my love of gems and minerals. The natural color and God's artistry in them draws me. This said, a couple of years ago I was the representative for ETGMS at the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies' (SCFMS) annual show in Waco. This led to my volunteering as chairperson of the Commemorative Stamp Committee for the SCFMS. Little did I know what this involved. There really isn't a committee, just myself, and the information on the subject is not easy to find. The information provided by the AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee hasn't been updated since 2010. This I can understand, as there really isn't much change in the process.

Our hobby of gem and mineral collecting is important to us, so why not share that hobby with the rest of the country, and in doing so share it with the world. Many other countries have had gem and mineral inspired stamps. The United States has had a few over the years. A set of mineral stamps were printed in 1974 and a second set in 1992. But neither were a collection such as we are proposing. To have the birthstones of each month on a set of 12 stamps. The idea is to encourage both SCFMS members and the public at large to send requests to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) of the United States Postal Service. The USPS has rules by which the CSAC operates. Rules say there will be no repeat subjects in 10 years. In August of 2010, Wendell C. Mohr, Chair Commemorative Stamp Committee for the AFMS posted flyers and posters on the AFMS website. I've included the main flyer on the previous page and the Internet address below, print out the flyers, petition, etc. to hand out and display at the club meetings and shows. Give a copy to all your rockhounding friends. Although, it is difficult to get a set of stamps approved, it is possible with enough support. I truly wish to encourage you all to get the word out. Susan Burch, ETGMS Editor and Chair Commemorative Stamp Committee for SCFMS.

<http://www.amfed.org/stamps.htm>

EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM



Name(s): _____ Birth Date: _____ Adult: _____ Jr. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

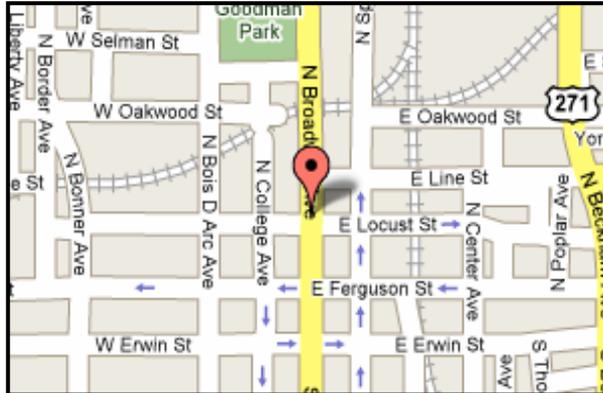
E-mail: _____ Newsletter via e-mail? Y ___ N ___

Special Interest in the hobby: _____ Date Joined: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone or Cell: _____ Dues Paid: \$ _____

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Don Campbell 3319 Omega Dr. Tyler, TX 75701	903-520-4085
VICE PRESIDENT	Becky Whisenant 3786 CR. 2107 Rusk, TX 75785	903-795-3652
TREASURER:	Jeri Kitchens 2533 Chelsea Dr. Tyler, TX 75701	903-245-8822
SECRETARY:	Laura Wilson 1337 CR 3402 Bullard, TX 75757	903-521-8292
MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:	Don Campbell 3319 Omega Dr. Tyler, TX 75701	903-566-6061
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 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.

Thank you... SB



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