



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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Coming Shows, 2012

Oct. 06 - 07
ARLINGTON, TX
Arlington G&MS
1010 N Collins St.

TEMPLE, TX
Tri-City G&MS
Mayborn Civic Ctr.

Oct. 19 - 21
AUSTIN, TX
Austin G&MS
Palmer Events Center
900 Barton Springs Rd.

VICTORIA, TX
Victoria G&MS
Community Ctr.
2905 E. North St.

Oct. 27-28
GLEN ROSE, TX
Paleo. Soc. Of Austin
Somervell Expo Ctr.
Hwy 67

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7. Bench tips by Brad Smith
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Presidents Message:

Our new club year starts October 1st and its our 1st Monday club meeting night also. It's also when the new officers and board members who were elected at last month's meeting start serving. I'm looking forward to serving again as President of the club in 2013 along with our new officers and board members. Terry Roberts will be our new Vice President, Suzan Chapman is Secretary, and Bill Faulkner is our new Treasurer. Rip Criss, our most recent past President will serve as a board member along with elected board members Keith Harmon, and Becky Whisenant. Last month we had a very spirited but productive club meeting. I do want to remind all of our club members to please come to the officers and board members with any questions, comments, concerns, ideas, and suggestions that you may have concerning the club. We will do our best to respond in a timely manner.

Our October 1st club meeting will be our annual club auction. This is our second biggest fund raiser for the club each year. In order for our auction to be a success, we are asking club members to donated items to the club to be auctioned off to each other. These donated items can be rocks, mineral specimens, fossils, lapidary materials, jewelry, hobby related books, tools, and equipment. So please bring your donations and cash and check books to the October club meeting.

In closing I want to recognizes three of our club members who recently served on our club audit committee. Richard Armstrong chairman, and Suzan Chapman and Terry Roberts, committee members did an excellent job of conducting the audit of our club treasury. They sacrificed a lot of time and energy working on this project. I mentioned at the September club meeting that the audit which was recently completed brought to light some discrepancies in our treasury record keeping and bank account. I want to assure the club members that 2012 officers and board members, and the new 2013 officers and board members are diligently investigating the issue at hand, and doing our best to resolve it. I will give a progress report at our October 1st. club meeting. Most importantly, Richard, Suzan, and Terry, provided the officers and board an extensive list of suggested practices, and operating procedures for the club to follow in order to eliminate these types of problems in the future. I will be presenting these suggested practices to the officers and board very soon for review and adoption by the club as policy for our club.

Continued on page 2.

President’s Message continued:

Congratulations to Susan Burch ETGMS club newsletter editor who was recently honored repeatedly with awards at the 2012 South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Convention Editors breakfast in Jasper, Texas, for her marvelous work editing and publishing our club newsletter. Susan puts out the best news letter I've ever seen. Hopefully she won't be penalized in next years competition for including my rambling messages in the news letter.

Don Campbell



OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

Our October 1st club meeting will be our annual club auction. This is our second biggest fund raiser for the club each year. We are asking club members to donate items to the club to be auctioned off to each other. These donated items can be rocks, mineral specimens, fossils, lapidary materials, jewelry, hobby related books, tools, and equipment. So please bring your donations, cash, and check books to the October club meeting. Smiles and laughter will be included at no charge.



Important Request

If there is any club member who remembers writing a personal check made out to the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society during the 2011 club show for membership dues or silent auction item payment, or know of any friends, family, or also anyone else who may have done so, please call Don Campbell, President of the ETGMS at 903-520-4085, or email at donald1427@hotmail.com.



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

President Don Campbell called the meeting to order @7:00pm. Talked about the silent auction. Silvia made motion to accept minutes Colleen second.

Asking for dues tonight to get current. Talked about keeping better records and a receipt will be issued. Keith talked about Charlotte and her medical health issues. August 25, SCFMS convention, Don Campbell & Susan Burch represented the club.

Discovery Science volunteers needed. Date is September 22 with the Webalos group. Sign up sheet on front table, or contact Don Campbell.

Minutes continued on page 3.



Field trips: Don Talked about draft. Naranjo Museum in Lufkin and his opening this past Saturday evening. September 29 field trip: Lake Texoma @ lake Denison dam@9:30am sign up sheet and information on front table. Laura Wilson discussed a trip to Arkansas Lake Quachita for Thanksgiving to collect quartz crystals. A sign up sheet and more information will be available at the next meeting.

October is our annual club auction. Bring it and we auction it off then. Keith Harmon will be our auctioneer.

November program is currently open, any suggestions?

December is our Christmas party.

Old business: Audit-July & August meeting at Don Campbell's request audit committee was formed. Richard Armstrong chair, Suzan Chapman & Terry Roberts. Progressed to August 6 meeting preliminary report. Investigation still underway and cannot discuss the details. August 29 talked about the audit numbers. Sharing information, pull officers in and a meeting was formed. September 4 meeting @ Gander Mountain. Colleen Hayes was asked to take over duties as treasurer. Currently, the outgoing Treasurer is cooperating with the board.

New business: Election of officers. Previous nominations: Richard Armstrong, president; Terry Roberts, vice president; Susan Chapman, secretary; Bill Faulkner, treasurer. Keith Harmon nominated Don Campbell for president, Colleen seconded the motion. Keith Harmon then closed the floor for nominations.

Making one vote on Terry, vice president, Suzan Chapman for secretary, Bill Faulkner for treasurer. It passed unanimously. During election for President a count of hands for votes was done by Becky Whisenant and newly elected Treasurer Bill Faulkner. Don Campbell had the most votes. Discussion was then over Constitution and bylaws for board members. Needing two members and a past president. Rip Criss previous president. Nominations from the floor were with a show of hands. Keith Harmon, Richard Armstrong, Becky Whisenant, and Colleen Hayes. Emily Phillips made a motion to close the nominations, seconding the motion, Bob Jamison. Former president Rip Criss, Keith & Becky are the board members chosen.

Becky made an announcement and said thank you thank you! Don! For agreeing to remain in the club and accept another year as president. As this was to have been his last night as a member and president, Becky had gotten a farewell cake...nicely decorated with a rock scene. Don was also presented with a specimen of appreciation.

Discussion on the FaceBook page, innuendo, very negative information. The board and members made a motion to remove it immediately. Tom Stringfellow made the motion, second by Keith Harmon. Unanimous vote to bring it down.

Webpage was talked about. Bill Faulkner Susan Burch, & Laura Wilson are the committee for website.

Door prizes drawn: Marjorie Miller, Bob Jamison, Gene Goar, Kenny Polve, Euva Scott, Susan Burch, Jon Laverty, Rip Criss, Becky Whisenant, Gene Goar. (lots of good stuff)

10 minute refreshment break before our program & awards.

Susan Burch passed out awards for different stories and articles to members from SCFMS.

Keith Harmon won the SCFMS the spark plug award for his contributions to the hobby. The Golden Spark Plug award is not given out every year.

PROGRAM: Don Campbell Talked about revisiting the past to look towards the future of the rock hounding club. Minutes in. Journal from 58-71. Don read an article from 1956 about the creation of the Gem & Mineral club. Charles Creekmur talked about his first field trip (he was 16 years old or so). Collecting petrified palm wood. :) laughter ensued. :) Talked about membership waxing and waning in the early 90s', how it has evolved into where we are today. The first Gem & Mineral show was in 1997.

Meeting was adjourned @ 9:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wilson, final duties of Secretary



CAMEOS

During the time of Shakespeare, the agate cameo was very popular in England and went by the name of “agatestones.” Agate cameos of exquisite workmanship were worn by the nobility and were in the crown jewels. Cameo is a subject about which comparatively little has been written and much deal with cameos of years past. Practically nothing has been written regarding the techniques of cutting shell cameos.

The old Italian cameo cutters spent their lives in the work, and the “secrets” of the art were handed down from father to son for generations. Usually the apprentice would start work as a young boy so it’s to be expected that a number of highly skilled cutters could be developed.

Cameo is a gem carved with figures that are raised in relief. The term often refers to a gem that has layers of different colors. The figures are cut from one layer against a background of another color. Stones commonly used for cameos include onyx, sardonyx, agate and tiger’s-eye. Shell and coral are also used, but the agate and tiger’s-eye have long retained their popularity. This is due to the fact that a well-executed portrait on one of these hard gemstones lasts for a lifetime. Beautiful artificial cameos are made from various kinds of shell and fine glass. Shell yields very delicate cameos.

Both the Romans and Greeks produced excellent cameos. Cameos were introduced for decorative purposes about 300 BC as a contrast to the older forms called intaglios, which were incised below the surface and also served as seals. Cameos and intaglios present the highest form of carving, since the cutter is truly a sculptor as well as a cutter. The cutting is done by means of a small lathe fixed to a table on a bench. The stone to be worked is held in the fingers and freely manipulated against the revolving tool on the lathe. In the 16th Century, cameos were carved from a single stone of five layers, each a different color. Cameos are much in demand today by collectors and are one of the latest fashion accessories.

From The Petrified Digest, 3/98, Via Fire and Ice, 12/03, Via Stoney Statements, 7/12; VIA Gritty Greetings 08/12.



Shell cameo ring set in 14k gold with diamond necklace. From the collection of Susan Burch



Several polymorphic forms of Malachite.
Photos courtesy of the Internet.

Ask the "X-spert"

Q. I was looking at a mineral description and it said that it was a 'polymorph'. What does that mean?

A. 'Polymorphs' are different physical forms of the same mineral. For example, the common mineral 'Gypsum' comes in many forms, all depending on the environmental conditions as it is formed. If there is water present, the hydrated crystal form 'Selenite' occurs and if it is hot and dry, the Anhydrite form makes massive beds in dry lakes of the desert. Barite is another mineral that comes in many shapes and it is a challenge to collect all the forms.

Q. In the tourist publications, I often see the word 'diamond', such as the Herkimer Diamonds, Pecos Diamonds, and the Arkansas Diamonds. Are these real diamonds?

A. In most cases, the term 'diamond' is just a nick-name for a clear quartz crystal. Yes, there are real diamonds in Arkansas but the ones referred to in tourist manuals are quartz crystals that are so clear and shiny that they "look" like diamonds.

Q. I noted at a Gem show that there were several minerals labeled "stabilized". What does that mean?

A. Many minerals come in a soft form that falls apart when worked on a wheel so it is becoming common to treat the material with a plastic resin to harden it. Turquoise and lapis are examples of material that is stabilized with the resin.

Q. I saw some interesting cabs that were called aventurescent". What does that mean?

A. Aventurescent means that the mineral / cab has a flakes of shiny material in it to give it a sparkle. It can be natural, like aventurine or man-made like 'goldstone'. In the aventurine, chrome mica gives a green color, rutile gives a gold hue, hematite flakes gives reddish color, and copper platelets gives an orange shimmer. The famous "sunstone" of Oregon has copper in it. The Italians perfected the uses of 'copper in glass' to give us the famous goldstone we see in many colors now.

Q. Gold filled wire is used in wire wrapping but what does 'gold filled' mean?

A. 'Gold filled' means the wire (brass) has been clad in a thin layer of gold- usually 12-14 K. The industry standard is that 1 /20th of the total weight of the metal is gold. In jewelry, it is stamped on the piece in that manner(1/20th 12K) and was widely used for upscale costume jewelry in the mid-1900s. 'Gold filled' jewelry is coming back due to the high price of gold so check the stamp mark on anything 'gold'.

From Huntin' & Diggin' 09/12



Fall Big Bend Rockhunts

Susan: Please pass this information on to the rock club members (including this message). I know several of them expressed an interest in rock hunting in West Texas after my presentation. The only problem with this hunt, as explained below, is that the two best ranches will not be available in October (the Walker Ranch south of Alpine and the ranch south of Marfa). However, the ranch at East Needle Peak will be available, but will require 4-wheel drive to negotiate the bottom of Well Creek. I would not recommend the Ritchie Ranch for the more experienced rockhounds. This ranch is located on the east side of Alpine (almost in the city limits) and very easy to drive on with 2-wheel drive. It is a good rockhunting site for beginners, but does not have much of the good plume agate on it. You can find brown moss agate and lots of jasper on it. I will pass along any other details as they become available. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this hunting trip.

I've been getting requests for information about Fall Big Bend Rockhunts, so I thought I'd send out an update, even though the news isn't very good. Right now it looks like neither the Walker Ranch nor the ranch south of Marfa will be open this fall. There hasn't been enough rain south of Marfa to make the rancher comfortable with us being out there, and the owner of the Walker Ranch will be unavailable until January at the earliest.

Although that's bad news, it still leaves us with two lovely places to rockhunt: The Ritchie Ranch, and East Needle Peak. The Ritchie Ranch is still \$5 per person per day admission, and the fee per pound will probably be \$1. East Needle Peak will be \$40 per person per day. There's been lots of rain in Alpine and Terlingua, so there ought to be lots of freshly uncovered agate that's easy to find!

I am also looking into a couple of other places, but they're not all that likely to come through yet, so I don't want to mention them.

As for the Woodward Ranch, it's still open to rockhunting on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. And, it's on the market if you have a few million dollars hanging around that you'd like to invest. It's about 2200 acres at \$2500/acre, including all the improvements. That's about \$5.5 million. If you buy it, I'll be glad to run the rockhunts for you! Here's the link to the listing: <http://www.jwcarpenter.com/R122.htm>. I can recommend the realtor as being honest and conscientious, in case you're interested.

I'll let y'all know when I have some more information about Fall rockhunts.

Regards, Teri. From Huntin' & Diggin' 09/12



FAKES & FRAUDS

Unfortunately, there's a growing amount of deception and outright fraud these days at gem and mineral shows and in some of the online venues that sell these items. Often "genuine turquoise beads" turn out to be dyed magnesite, and I've been told that the majority of colored stones being sold typically have had some "enhancement" done to them.

If you're interested in what kind of fakes and frauds have been uncovered, there's a well-done page at <http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfakes.htm>

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at facebook.com/BenchTips or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc, but if you need other shapes, it's easy to make your own. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic, copper or brass.

The brass template let's me quickly trace the design of these ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet, and the nickel template makes it easy to drill the pin inlay pattern into the ironwood.



After finding a poor selection of stock templates for ovals at my local art store, I was pleased with the wide selection on Cool Tools at <http://www.cooltools.us/> If you order, be sure to look for the 10% off code each month on their Home page.

Kingsley North also has some nice templates at <http://www.kingsleynorth.com/>

DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort. A special note however - don't try to bend one of the tips to a different shape - the steel will snap. To change the shape, heat the tip to red hot and bend it with pliers while it's hot.

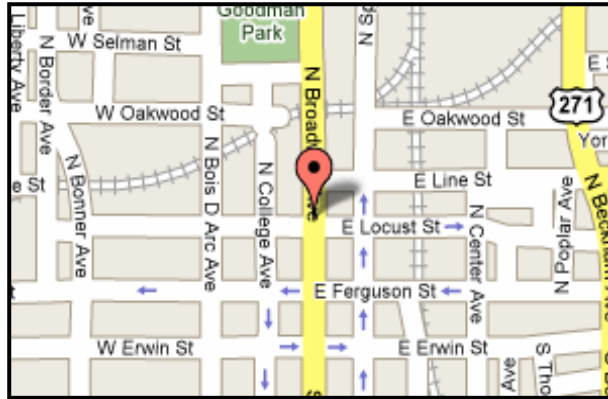
And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you.



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

CLUB OFFICERS

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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.

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 and I will direct you to the right party.

Thank you... SB

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.



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