



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL

SOCIETY

PAGE 1

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Coming Shows, 2011

Apr. 30 - May 01
LUBBOCK, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Civic Ctr.

May 28 - 29
FORT WORTH, TX
Ft. Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.

Aug. 13 - 14
BATON ROUGE, LA
Baton Rouge G&MS
Fraternal Order of Police

Aug. 20 - 21
BOSSIER CITY, LA
Ark-La-Tex G&MS
Bossier City Civic Ctr.

Aug. 27 - 28
JASPER, TX
Pine Country G&MS
Events Ctr.

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President's message

Another good meeting ! Excellent presentation on gemology and appraisal. Good list of resources for learning even more on the subject given out. Another example of the fact that each of our members has something to contribute that others are interested in learning about.

As we are all aware our Congress can move slowly at times and get mired down but sometimes it moves very quickly on bills. So quickly that a monthly newsletter is not sufficient to get out the word on pending legislation that may have a negative effect on all of us rockhounds. E-mail is excellent for this but you need to make sure that you have a current e-mail address listed with our treasurer and our editor so you can be contacted when there is a pending bill that could have a negative effect on us. Last year several provisions of the Omnibus Land Use Bill would have put severe restrictions on collecting rocks, minerals, fossils and, after sitting stalled for weeks, it was moved through committee and to a vote quickly. Fortunately, the Senate rejected the bill but it will most likely be re-filed again this year. The American Land Access Association has a free website with lots of information on the pros and cons of pending land use legislation at www.amlands.org<<http://www.amlands.org>>. They will send out an e-mail alert to the club members and you can then contact your legislators to let them know your stand on the bill. If you don't tell them, they won't know and it's easier to stop a bill before it becomes law than it is to get it amended later. Remember, it's our hobby and we have to protect it from those that would deny us access to collecting sites on federal land (our land) and who try to criminalize the collecting aspect of our hobby. Let your voice be heard!

Rip Criss

April 2011 Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by Club President, Rip Criss, at 7:05 p.m., April 4, 2011, at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX.

Motion to accept minutes of the March 2011 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter was made, seconded and motion carried. Don Campbell gave an abbreviated Treasurer's report in the absence of Jeri Kitchens.

There was no old business to be brought before the members but Jack Shull did report on the recent club field trip to Broken Bow, OK. He said a total of 19 people showed up for an outing that had been limited to 12 participants and that underscored the need for everyone who plans to attend a field trip to notify the trip leader. In this case, the group was divided into 2 areas and everyone was accommodated. Lester Langston and his daughter, Nicole, had brought handouts on how to clean crystals and Lester and several others spoke about what they had found on the trip. Lester and Nicole had brought 2 cases of cleaned crystals. Jack mentioned that a trip to Arkansas is planned for a later date to also dig for crystals. No field trips are planned for May but Keith Harmon mentioned that club members might like to carpool to Ft. Worth for the show on Memorial Day weekend.

The one item of new business was presented by Keith who said he received a call from Evelyn McLain of the Tyler Public Library about a summer program called "Dig Up a Book". She would like to have someone from our club give a short talk about our hobby on June 30th and July 7th. Becky Whisenant has already agreed to give talks at two other area libraries. Keith asked anyone interested in this to please contact him.

Don reminded everyone that the May program is "Show and Tell" when folks bring in stuff related to our hobby. He also asked for volunteers to present future programs at club meetings.

Door prizes were awarded and members took a short break for refreshments. There was no silent auction item.

Richard Armstrong, who has recently earned his certification as a gemologist, presented a program on what it takes to earn the different degrees, and listed schools, both in the US and England. Courses are available both on-site and online from several of the institutions. Richard's initial question, "What does a gemologist do?" was answered by 1) identification of gemstones 2) appraisal of gemstones and jewelry 3) research in the study of gemstones. He had brought several display cases of different gemstones, reference books, copies of study guides, instruments a gemologist uses and much more to highlight his talk.

The official meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



MAY MEETING PROGRAM

SHOW AND TELL

Bring your hobby related items for showing, telling and identification, and perhaps a yarn or two about the 'big one' that you just couldn't carry home.



Following is an announcement from the International School of Gemology. Some members may have friends or relatives in the military that may qualify.

ISG COMVET SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The ISG ComVet Scholarship program is accepting applications for the 1 July 2011 award date. The International School of Gemology is pleased to offer a full ISG Registered Gemologist Appraiser scholarship to combat wounded disabled veterans involved in the Afghanistan and Iraq military operations. Please read below for more information.

Each quarter the ISG Community awards one full ISG ComVet scholarship to a combat wounded disabled veteran who served and was wounded in the Afghanistan or Iraq wars since 2001. We award four (4) ISG ComVet Scholarships per year. The next ISG ComVet Scholarship will be awarded on 1 July 2011.

The ISG ComVet Scholarships are available to combat wounded disabled veterans from any of the countries listed as participating in the fight against terrorism on the website of the United States Central Command. The ISG ComVet Scholarships will provide the full ISG Registered Gemologist gemological training, equipment and support to combat wounded disabled veterans in an effort to provide training and assistance towards building a future in the gemstone industry. The ISG ComVet Scholarships will include:

- ISG Registered Gemologist Appraiser Program of eight gemology and jewelry appraisal courses.
- ISG RGA Gemological Equipment Package
- ISG StudyGem reference collection of 25 gemstones
- 5 year free ISG Re-Certification Fees and Exams
- Promotional Assistance to the insurance industry in professional work related applications of knowledge obtained during this training

For more information and to apply please visit the ISG ComVet Scholarship page on the ISG website at this link: [ISG ComVet Scholarships](#)

ISG ComVet Scholarship Program says Thank You to our military men and women everywhere.

The ISG Community thanks you for your service to the War on Terrorism and protecting the freedom of people everywhere. We appreciate this opportunity to give back to you for all you have given. Thank You....from all of us at the world wide ISG Community.

It is our pledge to continue this program until the last soldier comes home from Afghanistan and Iraq, wherever home may be.

The ISG ComVet Scholarships are dedicated to a bunch of rag tag US Marines out on the Oregon High Desert digging up Oregon Sunstone. Thank you for your service to this country in Vietnam and other wars. You taught us the meaning of Semper Fi!

The International School of Gemology is a Certified Continuing Education Provider by the Texas Department of Insurance and other states. We are licensed independent insurance adjusters (TDI#1300433) actively

Scholarships' Continued:

involved in the jewelry insurance industry in the US and Europe including claims mitigation and Special Investigations Units support.

We provide free gemological assistance to all US military personnel stationed around the Bagram AB region through our Gem Shopping at Bagram AB DVD training video program. To obtain a copy of this or to have one sent to any APO or FPO address free of charge please use the email link below: Military@SchoolofGemology.com

Thank you.

Robert James FGA GG

President, International School of Gemology

Property and Casualty Insurance Adjuster, Texas Department of Insurance (TDI#1300433)

Texas Department of Insurance Continuing Education Provider #33143

Contributed by Richard D. Armstrong
Registered Gemologist Appraiser



SCFMS and AFMS News
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION CODE OF ETHICS

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind -- fences, signs, buildings, etc..
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material -- matches, cigarettes, etc..
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter, Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my Club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoors Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and "Public Image" of rockhounds everywhere.

The site where you dig should be left clean and neat.
Leave no holes for another to stumble with his feet.
Into forest or field, you may take drink and food;
Leave nothing behind; clean it up real good.
Via SCFMS website/Nov.-Dec. 2010 newsletter.



Oklahoma Quartz Field Trip

By Susan Burch
(comprised of

Information from Becky Whisenant, Jack Shull and Cephis Hall)

Can you identify your fellow rockhounds? This photo taken by Becky Whisenant shows several of our club members hunting for crystal treasures near Broken Bow, Okla. Led out by Jack Shull and the owner of the West Slope Rock Shop, Cephis Hall.



A group of 19 showed up to participate, including: Becky, her daughter Jasmine, her two foreign exchange students, Lennart Brentrup from Germany and Jihyeon Gong from Korea, Jeri Kitchens and her friend Carl, Colleen Hayes, Pete Keiser, Lester Langston and his daughter Nicole, Chris and Sandy Ford with their grandson Bret, Carolyn Hugley, Becky Duer, Candace Turner, Rachel Ricks, Richard Armstrong, Ed Nolen and Mike Austen. Fun was had by all.

If you missed this month's meeting, you missed Jack Shull's report on the trip and getting to examine two cases of cleaned crystals brought in by Lester Langston and his daughter Nicole. A few flat Faden crystals were found and much of the quartz had green Chlorite inclusions some appearing to have phantoms.

During the field trip, Mr. Hall also spoke about his part in the 1983 discovery of the most complete skeleton of the rare 120 million-year-old *Acrocanthosaurus atokensis* found (whose footprints can be seen at Glenrose, TX.) Casts of the find can be seen at the Museum of the Red River in Idabel, Okla., and at his rock shop, along with beautiful specimens of locally found quartz crystals. The West Slope Rock Shop is located approximately 10 miles north of Broken Bow on US. Hwy. 259 near Hochatown.

A future trip is in the works to visit Arkansas to hunt for quartz, the date of that trip has not been decided. There is also mention of a trip through Okla., to hunt for hourglass selenite and Barite rose rocks.

Photos: Top right by Becky Whisenant; middle and bottom right photos via the Internet.





Planting a rock garden

By Waymon Cox

Greetings from Crater of Diamonds State Park ! As spring nears, those of us with green thumbs are already planning our vegetable and flower gardens for the summer. However, folks with thumbs of any type can plant and harvest the beauty and usefulness of rock gardens all year!

Rock gardens showcase the natural beauty of our world. As Arkansans, we live in a state with many diverse, fascinating rocks. Many may be found around our homes and planted in rock gardens to add color and character to a landscape and provide more than just obstacles for lawn mowers! Roadsides and stream beds are also easy places to search for worthy specimens, and local farmers may have piles of rocks from their fields they will be more than happy to get rid of. Wherever you collect, make sure you have permission from the landowners before you do so!



Not only can rock gardens tell us about where we live, they can also keep a record of where we've been! Many locations across the country allow visitors to collect rocks and minerals, and some communities have rock collecting clubs that travel to areas where specimens may be gathered. An exception to most state parks, the Crater of Diamonds allows visitors to take home unique rocks and minerals found here every day! Like a photo album, a garden of rocks gathered in travel is a great way to show others the places we've visited!

As Arkansans, we live in a state with many diverse, fascinating rocks.



Rock Gardens cont'

In addition to the beauty of rock gardens, they also serve many important functions. Rock gardens can help with drainage problems and prevent standing water in low areas around a home, while beautifying places where grass doesn't grow well. Rock gardens planted on a hillside not only create beautiful vistas, but also help slow erosion! Crevices between rocks serve as a habitat for drought-resistant plants that grow well in shallow soil, while the rocks themselves provide surfaces where mosses and lichens can grow. Lizards, spiders, and other small critters may even call spaces between and under the rocks home!

Rock gardens help with drainage and prevent standing water in low areas around a home.

Perhaps most beneficial to us are the educational opportunities rock gardens afford. Rock types, geology, erosion, and habitats are just a few of many subjects people of all ages can learn about with rock gardens. Whether for their looks or uses, there are plenty of reasons to plant rock gardens around our homes, businesses, and parks!

Rocks provide surfaces where mosses and lichens can grow.

Search area last plowed: February 23, 2011

Most recent significant precipitation: February 28, 2011

Diamond finds for February 6 – 26, 2011 (100 points = one carat):

February 6 - Kenny & Melissa Oliver, Rosston, AR., 2 pt. white

February 18 - Kevin Gale, Kenner, LA., 87 pt. yellow; Billy Moore, Murfreesboro, AR., 6 pt. white, 6 pt. brown, 10 pt. brown, 33 pt. yellow, 39 pt. white, 1.12 ct. white, 1.88 ct. white

February 19 - Kenny & Melissa Oliver, Rosston, AR., 1 pt. white, 3 pt. white

February 20 - Tom Stevens, Memphis, Tenn., 1.05 ct. brown

February 25 - Kolby Fry, Council Bluffs, IA., 4 pt. white; Roger Langford, Searcy, AR., 5 pt. white

February 26 - David Reach, Conway, AR., 38 pt. yellow; Lee and Traci Putnam, Houston, TX., 10 pt. white; Kenny & Melissa Oliver, Rosston, AR., 22 pt. white; Michele White, Sherwood, AR., 1.06 ct. brown

Via Huntin' & Diggin' 04/11



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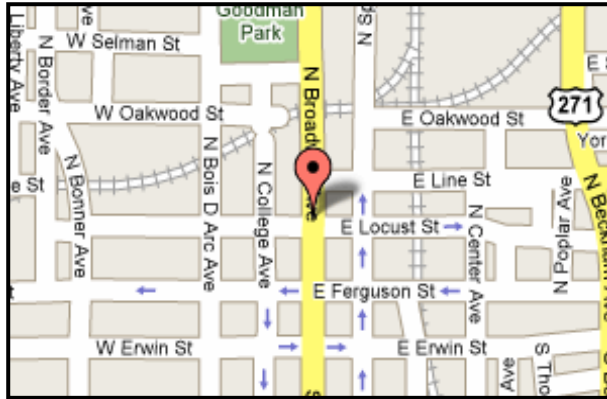
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

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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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