



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL

SOCIETY

PAGE 1

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MAY 2011

Coming Shows, 2011

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.

Sep. 03 - 04
ARLINGTON, TX
Arlington G&MS
Arlington Conv. Ctr.

Sep. 03 - 04
DENISON, TX
Texoma Rockhounds
Denison Senior Ctr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wasn't at the May meeting due to knee replacement surgery but imagine it was a good one. Show and tell meetings are usually good. Had lots of time on my hands to reflect on all I have to be grateful for. I'm grateful for the technology that allows a worn out knee to be replaced, the caring/competent staff at the orthopedic clinic, the hospital and rehab, my co-workers who have kept things going at work, my family and friends with their many offers of assistance and the members of the ETGMS who have consistently demonstrated their willingness to step up and do whatever is needed. My thanks to all of you. I hope to be at the June meeting. Until then, good luck collecting and stay safe.

Rip Criss



How do you know what is happening in the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society each and every month? As a member, you will receive our award winning monthly bulletin called The Rock N' Rose. It keeps you advised as to the Society's meetings, field trips, show reports, upcoming events, workshops, as well as, interesting tidbits and articles that keep you on your toes.

The e-newsletter saves volunteers time and the ETGMS money! Help us by getting your membership newsletter via email! Ask the newsletter editor to receive this newsletter via email. We respect your privacy and will never share or sell your email address!

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May 2011 Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by Club Vice President, Becky Whisenant, at 6:52 p.m., May 2, 2011 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX. President Rip Criss was unable to attend the meeting. During the opening, Becky acknowledged two visitors and one new member, Charlie Blaylock.

Motion to accept minutes of the April 2011 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter was made, seconded and motion carried. Jeri Kitchens, Club Treasurer, gave the financial report.

Don Campbell gave a short report on an informal trip to Lake Texhoma recently by several club members. There was information, including maps and directions on a club field trip May 14. The proposed field trip to Arkansas for crystals has been shelved until cooler weather in the fall. Becky outlined the duties of a Field Trip Chairperson and asked for volunteers to fill that vacancy.

There being no items of old business to be brought before the members the next item was new business. Jeri made a motion for the Club to buy a motor for Don Campbell's ten-foot boat so he can collect more specimens on the shore at Lake Texhoma. The motion was seconded by Colleen Hayes amid much laughter, but before it went to a vote, Don requested that the motion be tabled pending further research.

Don lead a spirited question and answer session about geologic ages with John Hargus winning first (and only) place. Following a short break for refreshments and conversation, the meeting resumed.

The program for the night was the annual "Show & Tell". Jeri lead off with quartz from the last field trip to Broken Bow, OK. Colleen Hayes showed the Brazilian agate she had mounted within stained glass and framed. Nicole had a shark tooth that was unearthed by a drilling rig near the Trinity River and found among the mud from the core sample. Her father, Lester Langston, had an assortment of "finds" he has collected. Pete Kaiser showed off a cut and polished copralite. Then Al Davis wow'd the crowd with a black skin agate set in Apache gold. He bought the agate slab at our Club show several years ago. Don showed sea urchins he found about 5 years ago in Oklahoma and then he was prevailed upon to tell the of saga of styrofoam floats, mud flats and collecting elusive treasures along the lakeshore. When faced with getting wet or putting more fossils on the float, we all knew what choice won out, since we all knew what decision we would have made. Ann had just gotten back from collecting west of Moab, Utah, last week and she had copralite and a marvelous specimen of Olive Agate and an amazing piece of petrified wood.

The program next month will be Colleen, Becky, Jeri and Don showing a cast of the large trilobite they have been working on in Oklahoma.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary

Record Gold Nugget Found!

Tuesday, March 15th, 2011
- The discovery in Nevada County, California, of a nearly 7-pound gold nugget last year has been called a one-in-a-billion lucky find. Now, on the eve of the auction of the so called “Washington Nugget” in Sacramento, its finder has told the story. In addition to a little bit of luck, it’s a tale



of geological knowledge, use of modern technology, elbow grease - and fear. He’s afraid to keep his find at home! “I’m just a little paranoid about people knocking on the door, putting a gun to my head and saying, ‘Where is it?’ “ said the finder. Hence, he demanded anonymity until the treasure sells.

The find was far from total luck. The Nevada County resident had a piece of undeveloped property – not far from the old gold mining town of Washington, California – assayed by a professional for possible gold deposits. “Just to see what gold would be down to the first 10 feet,” he said.

There was some fine gold, and a hint that there might be more in the bedrock beneath the old mining tailings. Knowing how Gold Rush lodes were found in similar bedrock, “it led us to think there may be some,” he said. A friend brought in a piece of equipment known as ground-penetrating radar. Similar equipment is used to locate sewer lines underground, or potential archaeological sites buried beneath centuries of dirt. In this case, it revealed the lay of the land buried beneath a yard or more of old mine tailings.

“We found an anomaly – a crevice or crack that indicated that it would be a good target,” he said. Such crevices sometimes trap nuggets. And this one was less than 10 feet down – the depth limit for their rented backhoe. After digging, they used a metal detector that can distinguish between gold and ferrous (iron-based) metals. “We started to use the gold detector and we got a very strong signal,” he said. It

Nugget continued

told them where – within a square foot – to target All the time they were working through ground water that seeped in as they dug. The nugget they found, weighing 100 ounces and about the size of a small loaf of bread, is worth more than \$100,000 at current gold bullion prices. “We weren’t expecting to recover anything

that size!” the finder said. They did, though, and also two smaller nuggets of less than a pound – about 4 and 10 troy ounces each.

The finder took it to Fred Holabird, an experienced mining geologist and appraiser in Reno, Nevada. The nugget’s size makes it unique. “The Washington Nugget may be the s o l e remaining authenticated large gold nugget of 100- troy-ounce caliber from the California gold region,”

Holabird said. Holabird draws a distinction between nuggets and gold in crystalline form, of which there are larger California pieces. By way of comparison, the largest California nugget still in existence, which is on display at the Smithsonian Museum, weighs 80 ounces. The Washington Nugget is expected to draw bids of \$250,000 to \$400,000, at the Sacramento Convention Center on the final day of the Golden West Auction. The finder, meanwhile, has hopes of returning to his land when the snow is gone to see if there are more. If it doesn’t sell at auction “It may go in a museum,” the finder said. “I just don’t want to have it in the house.”

UPDATE: The largest piece of Californian gold in existence sold for \$460,000 at the auction on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011. The identity of the buyer has not been released as of press time for this bulletin.

From The Rock Collector 5/11 via Rockhound Ramblings, 4/11, via Stoney Statements 5/11.





Rock & Gem Magazine—Craftsman of the Month

If you're interested in getting some recognition for a lapidary object you've crafted, read the following. An example and contact information are available at www.rockngem.com. When you get to the site, look to the left for Content and then Craftsman of the Month.

- 1. Write a 500-word step-by-step description of how you crafted your lapidary project from start to finish. Submit a copy of the story on diskette, along with your printed manuscript, if you are able.**
- 2. Take at least one sharp, close-up, color photo of the finished project. Submit high-resolution (300 dpi at 4 inches by 5 inches) digital photos as .tif or .jpg files on a CD. (Contact the editor with questions.)**
- 3. Send your materials, along with your name and street address (required for delivery), to Craftsman of the Month, Rock & Gem magazine, 290 Maple Ct., Ste. 232, Ventura, CA 93003. Submissions will not be returned, so do not send originals. Only winners will be notified.**

Craftsman of the Month winners receive a two-speed Dremel Model 2850 MultiPro kit and a wall plaque in recognition of their creativity and craftsmanship. Gritty Greetings 10/09



Gemstone of the Month
Red Beryl
By Les Connally

On a fairly recent trip to Utah and other sites, I first became aware of the occurrence of Red Beryl. It was an occasion of a rock hunting trip to Topaz Mountain a few miles out of Delta, Utah that perked my interest. On arriving in Delta with others in the party we stopped in a local Rock Shop there, where the proprietor showed us several samples of the Champaign Topaz from Topaz Mountain. Topaz Mountain is an extension of the Thomas range, of Utah. While we were there he also showed us some of the Red Beryl that had been found on another portion of the Thomas Range. On further investigation, I learned that the Harris family had the rights to the Red Beryl claims. I had wished to obtain a sample of the Beryl for faceting. On speaking with Rex Harris, who had the claims, I was informed, by him, that no rough coming from the mine was for sale and that all the material that he removed from the site was being sent out to a faceter for cutting and returned to sell as completed gem stones.

The Beryl's chemical makeup is $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$

It has a hardness of 7.5 – 8. The red coloration is believed to be traces of Manganese. Also of note, is that Red Beryl is more rare than diamonds; to the tune of 150,000 to 1. The Red Beryl was originally discovered by Maynard Bixby in 1904. Some years later, in 1912, Dr. A. Eppler named the material Bixbite, in honor of the discoverer. 1.

Today the more accepted Term is Red Beryl, due to the existence of another mineral found in the Thomas Range known as Bixbyite, $(\text{Mn}, \text{Fe})_2\text{O}_3$, which is a black, cubic mineral that is rarely over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch across. 2

It can easily be seen the confusion between Bixbite and Bixbyite. After all is said and done, it is a Beryl.

Other sources for the Red Beryl are the Wah- Wah Mountains in Utah and The Black Range in New Mexico.

Anybody up for a field trip to the Black Range?

Reference:

1. The internet – geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/gladasked/gladberyl.htm
2. Encyclopedia of Minerals, By Willard Lincoln Roberts, George Robert Rapp Jr., Julius Weber. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1974, p. 75.

GEMS

by Mary Owens

*When the earth was created
It was filled with precious stones.
You could find these precious gems
In almost all of earth's zones.
From the beginning of man
Gems held a fascination.
To beautify the new earth
They were part of creation.
Men used these gems often
To pay for things they needed.
Decorations galore
Were with precious gems treated.
For these beautiful stones
Were most sought after gifts,
And were used frequently
To patch up the worst rifts.
Many gems wound up in
The full coffers of kings.
Many were also used in the prettiest rings.
Most expensive jewelry
Was filled with precious gems.
Even splendid garments
Had beautiful gems as trims.
But so many have taken
So many precious stones,
The scarcity of them
Is one of the things man moans.
So, before they're all gone
And no more these stones we see,
We'd best conserve our own
Or none will be left for me.*



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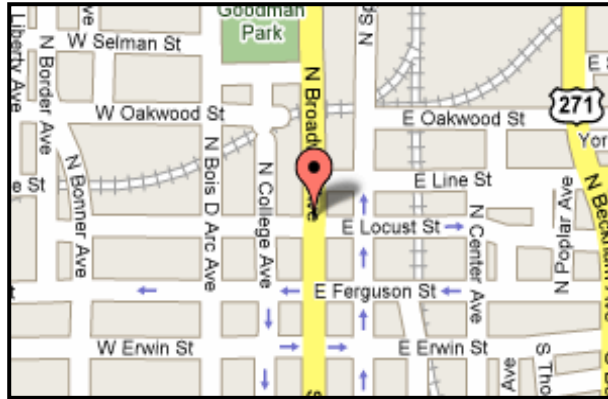
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

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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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