



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 7

JULY 2011

Coming Shows, 2011

Aug. 13-14
AUSTIN, TX
Austin Bead Society
Palmer Events Center
900 Barton Springs Rd.

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

Good meeting this month. The Exhibits Director for The Discovery Science Place accepted the Orthoceras plate the club donated to them and then opened up the facility for a guided tour. Lots of really nice exhibits, including the fluorescent mineral display the club donated last year. Lots of favorable comments from the members that went on the tour. My daughters took my grandchildren (ages 2, 3, 4 and 6) to The Discovery Science Place the week after July 4th and they all had a great time. Our support of The Discovery Science Place helps them to reach out and educate hundreds of children in this area. I often get positive comments about the fluorescent mineral display from people when we discuss The Discovery Science Place. A "little birdie" told me that some of our members (the Davis') have been conducting some well-received educational programs through their local libraries. Don't be shy about it when you do this. Let me know so I can let others in the club know via the newsletter. Might give them some ideas on what they can do to promote lapidary arts and the ETGMS. After all, we are an educational society. Weather's been too hot to do much collecting but I'm making tentative plans for this fall. If you do decide to go collecting in this heat, please take plenty of water, wear a hat, use sunscreen and take it easy. Until next month, good luck collecting and stay safe.

Rip Criss



LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

It is with deep regret that I must resign my position as Secretary of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society. I will be spending most of my time in Baton Rouge, LA., caring for my parents and do not feel that I will be able to do an effective job for our Club. On a personal note: I will miss the wonderful friends I've made and I do wish everyone the very best in the future. Happy (Rock) Hunting!

Sincerely, Penny Hawkins

txferret@yahoo.com

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JULY MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by Club President, Rip Criss, at 6:50 p.m., July 11, 2011 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX.

Motion to accept minutes of the June 2011 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose Newsletter was made by Jeri Kitchens, seconded by Becky Whisenant and motion carried. Jeri Kitchens, Club Treasurer, gave the financial report. There was no old business or new business to be brought before the members. Due to the record-breaking heat, there were no field trips planned.

The silent auction items were shown and door prizes, including ocean jasper, jade and amethyst were awarded. A short break for refreshments followed.

Don Campbell had on display the huge slab of orothoceras fossils that the club members agreed at the last meeting to donate to the Discovery Science Place. Don had spoken with Jim Cox, the Exhibits Manager who had offered to give the club members a special tour of the facility and show where the donation would be displayed. Members also were able to see the fluorescent display the Club donated last year. Members explored the museum and enjoyed a "field trip" without even getting in a car.

The tour completed, members returned to the meeting room for the program which was the video of "What's Hot in Tucson 2009, Part II". The narrative was punctuated with ooohs and aahs as fantastic gems and minerals filled the screen.

The official meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Don Campbell has submitted several things via e-mail for the newsletter, mainly pertaining to future programs and meeting times. I wish to apologize for forgetting to put them into the newsletter. Hopefully, I will do better in the future.



Due to the sad, but necessary resignation of our Secretary, Penny Hawkins, we will need someone to take the position. The basic responsibilities of the Secretary are to take the minutes at each meeting (write down what is said or done in the general format of the Minutes above) and then e-mail them to the Editor for publication in the newsletter.

It will need to be someone who can attend most if not all of the meetings, has e-mail or knows someone who can e-mail the minutes. You don't need to concentrate on spelling, although most programs have a spell check. There may be other responsibilities that I don't know about, however if you have any questions or wish to fill the position, please don't hesitate to contact myself or one of the other officers of the club. You can also bring up the subject at the next meeting. Hopefully, Penny can offer advise for anyone interested.

Penny, thank you for all you have done for the club, we will greatly miss you and hope all goes well in your future, and you are able to come back soon.

Susan Burch, Editor



Like a Rock By Becky Whisenant

Any day is a good day to talk about rocks. That is just what many of our club members will do when given the opportunity and who could ask for a better audience than interested kids? Recently I shared information about our hobby as part of the summer program for 2 local libraries: Bullard & Troup. Not everyone may be aware that Keith & Charlotte Harmon have amassed an educational rock collection specifically for use with school groups. When they have been unable to visit with a group, various club members have pitched in to take this collection and spread the news of how much fun gem, mineral & fossil collecting can be. Along with the enjoyment of watching a 6 year old try to quickly hand off a rock you've just revealed is poo-poo (copralite), these encounters can renew in us the wonder of what's beneath our feet. The amazed reactions you get when you darken the room and light up the fluorescent rocks is worth all the bad behavior distractions, the numerous interruptions, the child who just will not be quiet, and lugging all those boxes in & out. After all, just how old were you when your fascination began? Chances are we were probably about the same age as those children and most likely there was a memorable person who made some kind of impression that led us to where we are now. Spreading the word is a worthwhile summertime activity for our hobby that can be done in air conditioning right here at home!

Becky Whisenant and a group of children ready to learn about rocks at the Bullard Library





DO YOU KNOW WHAT MINERAL YOU ARE WEARING?

Sharon Robertson



Has anyone recently walked up to you and complimented you on your fine talc or hematite or mica? Well, some of us wear these minerals every day without really knowing it. Some of these minerals you will recognize, but others may be new to you.

The very first mineral we come into contact with in life is probably talc. Talcum powder is a major use for talc, but it is also used in eye shadow, liquid makeup, rouge, blush, and pressed powder.

A group of minerals we commonly use is the iron oxides. The earliest use of iron oxides as pigments is believed to be a picture of a bison on the walls of a cave near Altamira, Spain, drawn during the Magdalenian period (16,000 BC). Today we use iron oxides for more

sophisticated drawings. Magnetite (black iron oxide), hematite (red iron oxide), limonite (yellow iron oxide), and goethite (brown iron oxide) are used to make liquid makeup. Iron oxides are also used to add color to lipstick, mascara, and pressed powder. Zinc oxide (zincite) is used in creams to protect sensitive skin from the sun's burning rays. The white noses that you see at beaches are covered with zincite.

Another important group of minerals is mica. We use sericite (granular mica) in eye shadow and pressed powder for structure, shine, and their ability to slip along planes. Without this ability to slip, eye shadow would be very difficult to apply. We also use muscovite mica in eye shadow. If the mica is coated with rutile or anatase, the resulting product is pearl. The thickness of the titanium dioxide coating determines the color of the pearl. Thus a rainbow of pearl shades is available for use in lipstick, eye shadow, hair gel, body lotion, rouge, and blush.

Rutile and anatase are the principal ores of titanium dioxide, although ilmenite (iron titanite) was also mined for titanium dioxide. Rutile and anatase are used to whiten products such as lipstick, eye shadow, hand and body lotion, and makeup. Calcite is used as a binder in eye shadow and pressed makeup, to hold the mica, pearl, and pigment together. Dolomite serves as a binder in eye shadow. Calcite is also used in chewing gum base, antibiotics, antacids, and dentifrice. Microcrystalline and amorphous quartz find a use in scouring soap and toothpaste. Quartz coats tablets and pills to ease swallowing. Quartz in ointments accelerates the release of active substances to the skin. Quartz in suppositories adds improved rheological behavior and temperature stability. Quartz improves the suspension properties of lotion. Quartz is also used in toothpaste to give a smooth, glossy appearance.

Kaolinite (clay) provides a thickener in creams and lotions, as do the smectites (swelling clays). These unique minerals absorb water or oils to thicken the product, much the way flour or corn starch thickens gravy. Clays absorb oil from the skin and are useful in lotion and makeup for this reason. Attapulgit is a thixotropic clay which forms gels and pastes useful for toothpaste and shaving gel. Barite helps in x-ray diagnoses. Bauxite polishes teeth and imparts softness and smoothness in lotions and creams. It is also used as a carrier for perfume in sachet powder and creams. Chromite is a green pigment used in eye shadow and mascara. Lapis lazuli has been used as a blue pigment since fifteenth century paintings; however, it has been found in sixth and seventh century wall paintings in the cave temples of Bamiyan, Afghanistan. Today it gives blue color to mascara, eye shadow, nail polish, lipstick, and liquid makeup.

To sum this all up, each day some of us come into contact with a wide variety of minerals without realizing it. For you skeptics reading this, what about your stick deodorant? It probably contains talc. Or your roll-



Wearing continued.

on deodorant? It probably contains veegum, swelling clay. Or your toothpaste? It may contain zircon (zirconium silicate). Almost all of us use minerals daily. Perhaps we should read labels and see just how many minerals we use each day. Be careful, the chemical names of the minerals are listed on the packages in some cases, such as with the iron oxides. Have fun wearing them and remember next time you put on makeup, or go out with someone wearing makeup, a lot of minerals went into that perfect finish! Go ahead, kiss a mineral!

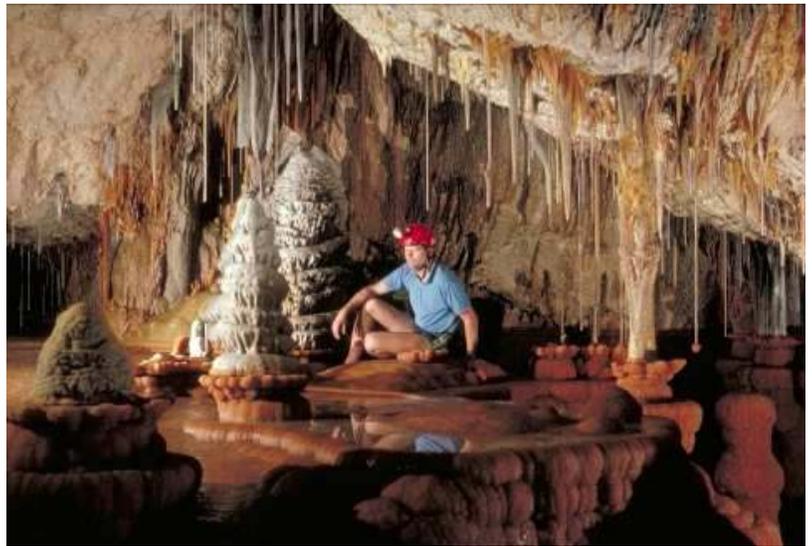
From Garnet Gazette 10/85, via Lithosphere 01/97, via The Rock Collector 10/98, Star-O-Lite via BGMSNewsLetter1209, via Stoney Statements 07/11



LECHUGUILLA CAVE

By Don Shurtz

What do spelunking, NASA, the National Park Service, mineralogists, and microbiologists have in common? Lechuguilla Cave. The Dallas Morning News, Sunday, December 21, 1997 edition, had an article by Marilyn Haddrill. Lechuguilla Cave was discovered in 1914 and was thought to be no more than 400 ft. long. Lechuguilla Cave is located in a wilderness area of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Back in 1914 it was mined for bat guano. In 1968 spelunkers found a small hole that led to a maze of caves and caverns. To date they have explored more than 92 miles of caves branching out from that 400 ft. entrance, with more cave still to be explored.



Lechuguilla Cave is described as having formations ranging from delicate structures that vibrate when blown on up to massive, cathedral-like formations. One formation is described as the world's largest gypsum formation. So what does all this have to do with NASA and microbiologists? The cave is estimated to have formed about 7 million years ago. In the dark, undisturbed chambers they have discovered over 1200 types of microbes. Because of the closed ecological system, the cave's life forms are dominated by the microbes rather than the more highly evolved organisms such as fungi, plants, and animals. The microbes live on the sulfur, methane, and hot water in the cave. NASA is interested in the cave because it may be representative of similar conditions that existed on Mars in the distant past. They believe that the cave may help them understand the underground conditions that could be encountered in future explorations of the Red Planet. The article also indicates that NASA has studied at least two other caves, in Romania and Italy, where the ground environment is wetter and much more active than that in Lechuguilla Cave.

The microbiologists are studying the microbes and testing them as antibiotics, anti-fungal, and cancer fighting agents. There are some indications that microbes, collected primarily at Lechuguilla Cave, are effective in destroying breast cancer cells in test tube tests. The microbiologists are also investigating if any of the microbes are archaea, a new type of life form first found in 1977. A possible strain of archaea, unique to Lechuguilla Cave, has tentatively been identified, but investigations continue.

From Chips and Chatter, 01/98, via Show me Rockhounds Newsletter 03/98, via the Glacial Drifter, 04/98, via Stoney Statements 07/11



Lapidary Corner

HINT & TIPS FROM ALL OVER

TO CLEAN OBSIDIAN NEEDLES, wash them in Castile soap. Use a toothbrush to get the clay off. Never put obsidian in detergent as it will leave a white film, which is very hard to remove on the stone. To remove iron stains, soak in oxalic acid, wash well afterwards.

From Jaspers Jargon 2/88, via Rock Rattler 10/89

DON'T GET LOST! In an open space where the ground is level, drive a stake into the ground. Mark the tip of the shadow that the stake casts with a small rock. Wait at least ten minutes then place another rock at the tip of the shadow. The line joining the two rocks will always run east/west no matter what time of day or year!

From Prospector 8/84

MAKE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Take an empty coffee can, fill it with 3 parts dry sand to one part baking soda. Mix well. Store in strategic places around the house, shop, garage and vehicles. In case of a small fire, sprinkle at the base of the fire to smother it.

From Pegmatite via Rock Chip Reporter 4/96

STERLING SILVER can be given a frosted look by roasting the silver in an oven for 20 minutes at 300 degrees F. This changes the surface copper in the sterling silver to copper oxide, which may then be dissolved in sulfuric acid, leaving a pure matte silver.

TO ERASE A SCRIBE MARK use the eraser on a common lead pencil. First, wet the eraser and dip it in 100 grit, erase and remark. The grit from the grinding wheel that is on the bottom of the pan works well.

CANDLE YOUR MONTANA AGATES just as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a two pound coffee can. Turn it upside down and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light coming through the hole will show the dendrites. Saves cutting time.

All taken from Cowtown Cutter 7/97, via Stoney Statement 07/11

TO CLEAN FERN FOSSILS, do not use wax, shellac, varnish, lacquer or spray plastic because they cannot be readily removed and they destroy fine surface detail. Museums use yellow dextrin to bring out contrast and help preserve the specimen. Mix a little bit of the dextrin with water to the color of tea and paint it on the fern itself, not the matrix and it will stand out.

DENTS IN HOLLOW BRACELETS can be removed by soldering a piece of wire into the dent and pulling outwards. When satisfied that the solder and wire are holding well, pull out with pliers or place in vise. Do not overdo the pulling. When finished pulling, cut off the wire and file carefully. Use graving tool if motif is to be refurbished.

From Al Bodman of Laphound News 11/91, via Crystal Ball, Santa Barbara

DARK HOUSEHOLD VINEGAR will dissolve epoxy glue by soaking overnight.

From Gems of the Toque 4/95, via T-Town Rockhound 7/96

A LITTLE GRAPHITE mixed with chrome oxide and applied to a muslin buff makes a wonderful jade polishing agent. When using chrome oxide for polishing jade, mix it with a solution of ½ water and ½ vinegar.

TO BRING OUT THE COLOR OF CHRYSOCOLLA, put the specimen in Purex Bleach full strength for as long as it takes. This really works and you get some good colors. Works with any copper also.

From Rock Chip Reporter 5/81

All via Stoney Statements 07/11



ERROR IN JUNE NEWSLETTER

Note from a club member

Just got the Newsletter in mail today. Found a factual error in the item on Montana Agate (June 2011 issue of the Rock N Rose). Last paragraph said it was the third hardest stone in the world and can only be cut with a diamond saw. Not true. All agates are chalcedony and have a hardness of 6 1/2 to 7. There are many minerals harder, diamond, corundum, chrysoberyl, spinal, all the garnets, beryl, tourmaline, even the crystalized forms of quartz are generally harder than chalcedony (agate). Although lapidaries do use diamond saws to slab and trim agates today, because its faster, it can be cut with other abrasives. Before synthetic diamond abrasives were developed lapidaries generally used corundum or even garnet abrasives to saw and shape agate.

Richard D. Armstrong
Registered Gemologist Appraiser



CLUB INTEREST AND INFORMATION

Most of the club newsletters I get in exchange list their members' birthdays and anniversaries along with other goings on in members' lives or their individual interests in the hobby. This helps to bring us a little closer as a gem and mineral family.

Along this line, I request any who receive this newsletter to please submit a little about yourself and family. Are you married, what's your anniversary and birthday. What interests you in the hobby, I know some have filled this question out on the membership brochure when you joined, however I don't have that info, and it would be nice for me to have it all in one place. You can be as brief or detailed as you like.

Many have been members so long that we have come to know a little of their interests just by association, but there are so many that we would like to get to know more closely. In trying to put this together, perhaps we can find more common interests. It will further our quest for better field trips and perhaps meeting programs/demonstrations. If we know what interests you, we can provide a more personalized club experience.

Please, submit this information as soon as you can so that I may start compiling the data in one place and begin sharing it with the other club members. Mainly, I will be sharing the birthdays and anniversaries...if you don't wish to include a year, that's ok too, just include the month and day. This is not to single anyone out, but to become a closer family. Thank you so much for complying with this. You may submit your info via phone at (936) 615-5397 or via e-mail at rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com. If these options don't work for you, please mail your anniversary, birthday and interests information to:

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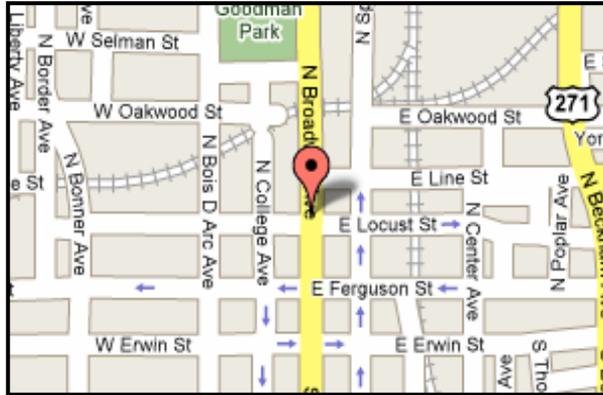
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

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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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