



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL

SOCIETY



PAGE 1

VOLUME 37

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

Coming Shows, 2011

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.

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ARLINGTON, TX
Arlington G&MS
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DENISON, TX
Texoma Rockhounds
Denison Senior Ctr.

Oct. 08 - 09
TEMPLE, TX
Tri-City G&MS
Mayborn Civic Ctr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Due to the club's president, Rip Criss, being in California and having lost a family member to death, there will not be a President's Message this month. Rip, we are sorry to hear about your loss and look forward to when you can come back to us.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hi all, I have been missing everyone due to not having made the meeting this month nor last, however I am looking forward to the things we have lined up in the up-coming months. Hopefully, we can all get together and enjoy some rock-hounding activities. The Harmon's have one of their backyard rock sales coming up in September. Jack Shull has mentioned the possibility of a field trip to Arkansas to collect quartz at the end of October or early November. On page 7 of the newsletter is a field trip scheduled for next February to the Mason, TX area by Laura Wilson. So, we all have things to look forward to. Thank you to those in the club who put themselves out to make the club a better experience for the other members. It would be nice if all of us could contribute, whether it be holding an office, putting on meeting programs or scheduling field trips. A big welcome back to Laura Wilson, Susan Oravetz and Carol Moore, returning members to the club.

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MEETING MINUTES

East Texas Gem and Mineral monthly meeting was called to order by Don Campbell due to the absence of President Rip Criss and Vice President Becky Whisenant.

Since there were no door prizes available, Don donated a limestone slab from Black Cat Mountain OK., for a door prize.

Laura Wilson donated various fossils for freebies that she picked up near Leadville, Colorado.

Colleen Hayes offered the motion to accept the minutes as read in the newsletter; Jeri Kitchens seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report was given by Jeri Kitchens.

New members returning to the club included Laura Wilson, Susan Oravetz and Carol Moore.

Old Business: Don reintroduced the idea of club members planning field trips for the club.

Pete Keiser volunteered to contact Ashcraft Quarry for a possible field trip to collect pyrite and fossils.

Keith Harmon will have a field trip to his house for a rock sale at the end of September. Dates to follow.

Jack Shull suggested a field trip to Arkansas for quartz crystal at the end of October or early November.

Laura Wilson suggested a trip to central Texas for fossils/topaz and other items in February.

New business: Jeri shared that the Calumet Mine in Colorado was very picked over and not really worth the trip.

Laura Wilson talked about her tip to Leadville, Colorado and finding orthoclase specimens and Fossils.

Keith Harmon was the winner of the limestone door prize.

Don gave an interesting program about how to use various resources to locate rock hounding sites.

The resources included the use of reference material, geological maps and networking.

Several of the suggested reference materials included Texas Monthly Field Guide to Fossils of Texas, by Charles Finsley and maps from the Economic Dept. of Geology from University of Texas as well as the Texas Hwy Department website to locate new road construction sites for possible collecting. Keith Harmon offered his personal reference library to anyone who might be interested in further literature.

Meeting was adjourned.

Acting Secretary, Colleen Hayes



SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

TBA

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HONOREES FROM SCFMS

**The two honorary award students for 2011 from the SCFMS were:
Lindsay Olinde and James Crane**

(The above information was from the June, 2011 issue of the AFMS Newsletter.)
(Editor's Note: Lindsay wrote a thank you note, which was printed in the SCFMS News for May & June.)

Lindsay Olinde, PhD student in Geological Science at the University of Texas at Austin. She is working on evolution of stream channels by looking at how bedload transport is correlated to topography, mineralogy and related factors.

James Crane, PhD student at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His thesis is on the effect of biofilms and biogenic gases on the elastic properties of soils with ramifications to the stability of the levee systems along the Mississippi River.



FORMER DOOR-PRIZE UP FOR SALE

Several years ago Theresa Alsabrook won the door prize at our club show, a beautiful amethyst "cathedral". She would like to sell it now and her husband contacted me to see if I knew anybody interested. Dale Alsabrook's cell number is: (903) 521-3507. I do not know what they are asking for it.

Penny Hawkins



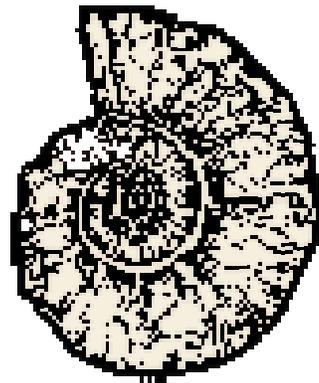
Picture courtesy of the internet,
not of actual item for sale.

MORE ABOUT NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011

Eva Lyon, National Fossil Day 2011 Coordinator

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Eva Lyon and I am working with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, American Geological Institute and other partners to organize and coordinate the 2011 National Fossil Day. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in this year's National Fossil Day, which will take place on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. This event is in conjunction with Earth Science Week, as sponsored by the American Geological Institute. As part of the Paleontological Resources Act of 2009, U.S. federal agencies have been mandated to promote public understanding of the importance of our nation's fossil resources.



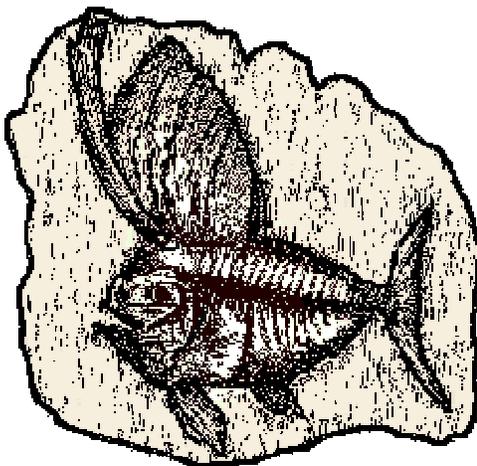
The National Park Service and its partners believe that one of the best ways to accomplish this is through National Fossil Day.

This is only our second year for National Fossil Day, so we hope to build upon the success of our last event and make this year even better.

This is where you come in; we are seeking to bring on board new partners from across the country to join in our efforts to

promote public appreciation and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater understanding of their scientific and educational values. Many of our other partners have organized their own events for the day including presentations, mock digs and fossil identification games, among other educational opportunities for children and the public. In an effort to contact as many people as possible, I have reached out to you as representatives of large, over-arching gem and mineral societies in hopes that you will be able to spread the word to your respective communities. In my efforts, I have come to realize that there are far more rock hounds in this country than I ever could have imagined! In order to get a better idea of what we do, I encourage you to visit our website at: <http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm>

We hope you will join us for this year's event so that we might reach an even greater number of fossil enthusiasts!



If you are interested in joining our team, please reply to this email so that we can begin putting together a plan of action.

Thank you,

Eva Lyon

National Fossil Day 2011 Coordinator

GeoCorps America Guest Scientist

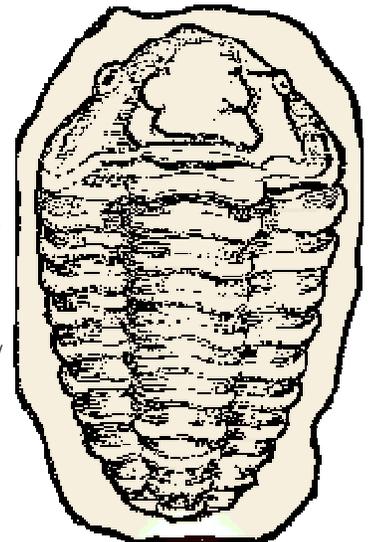
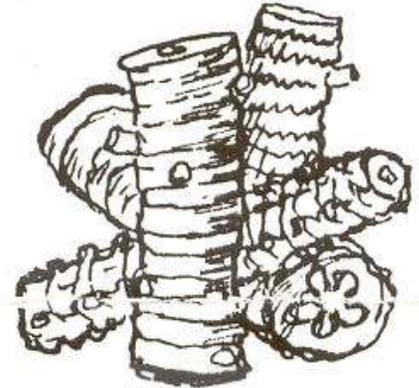
National Park Service

Phone: (703) 379-2480 ext. 249

"Eva Lyon"

<national.fossil.day@gmail.com>

Via South Central Federation Newsletter July/August 2011





The Origin of Fossils

By Bob Cross, CLGMS

Late Professor Emeritus of Geology, San Jacinto College - North

What are Fossils?

They are evidence of life that lived in the geologic past. Very few animal or plant remains are preserved as fossils since most organic life is composed of soft parts, which are seldom preserved.

The two main conditions that are almost essential for the preservation of organic remains are:

1. That the organism has hard parts such as Bones, Shells etc.
2. That the remains are covered quickly. If remains are not covered quickly scavengers will eat them, rivers or waves may destroy them or Oxygen will decompose them chemically.

One of the best ways to preserve fossils is for a CONCRETION to surround them. Concretions are formed around organic remains after sediments are deposited and there is local cementation of those sediments.

Fossils may be DIRECT or INDIRECT Evidence of past life.

A. DIRECT -

Fossils that are of the DIRECT Evidence type are where the actual remains are involved in some manner.

Unaltered Remains

1. These are usually the unaltered hard parts such as shells, bones, wood, and coral. They are never very old since chemicals in the ground water usually change them chemically
2. The actual remains of soft parts are rarely preserved since they normally decompose; however:
 - a. Many animals as large as mammoths have been preserved in glacial ice.
 - b. Insects enclosed in amber are largely actual remains.
 - c. Some remains of animals are found in tar deposits, such as the La Brea deposits.
 - d. The oldest actual remains of soft parts are rare dehydrated or mummified remains such as 150 million old dinosaur skin.

Mineral Replacement -

Three groups of replacement fossils are recognized:

1. **Permineralization** - Mineral matter strengthening of the hard parts by filling in the pore space.
2. **Petrifaction** - The complete replacement of the original organic hard parts by mineral water. Usually the mineral matter is silica or Calcite, Dolomite or Pyrite.



Fossils continued

3. **Distillation** - The removal of the volatile materials, mostly water, to preserve a record of the soft parts with the carbon remains. Carbon remains, along with impressions, are the chief record of organic soft parts and therefore they are very important

B. INDIRECT -

Fossils which are INDIRECT Evidence of prehistoric life are:

1. Fossil Molds - Three-dimensional impressions of the inside or outside of organic remains.
2. Fossils Casts - Duplicates of the original remains by filling in the molds with mineral water. Only the outside is duplicated
3. Impressions - Flat impressions formed where and organism lay in the mud.
4. Coprolites - Fecal droppings of organisms. Very important since they indicate food and the environment present.
5. Footprints - Special molds that indicate the animal that made them as well as the animals weight and mode of travel.
6. Tracks and Trails - Of worms and insects indicating presence. of the organism.
7. Borings and Tunnels - General forms of life can be identified as being present from these Casts. These are the earliest evidence of life on land
8. Chemical Remains - Trace fossils that some form of organism was present.

C. Very indirect!

Presence of Organic Carbon Molecule, Organic acids.

Coal is evidence for presence of plants. Petroleum is evidence for the presence of plant or animal life. In addition to telling the details of life in the past and the story of such unique animals as the giant dinosaurs, fossils also tell of past climates.

Colonial corals in Greenland rocks attest to warmer conditions in the past than today, and imprints of fir and spruce in unconsolidated clays near the surface recorded the penetration of glacial cold far to the south Fossils are frequently used to determine the marine or fresh-water origin of rocks.

Note: Concretions are often found in shale, sandstone, and limestone. They may be spherical or flattened masses formed around a fossil or some other nucleus. They may be very small or up to several feet in diameter. Concretions are often harder than the enclosing rock and hence are found as they weather out of it.

Via Stoney Statements 08/11



Back Yard Rock Sale

Keith and Charlotte Harmon are having their backyard rock and equipment sale on Sept. 24, 2011

Where: 8316 Oxford Dr. , Tyler, TX 75703

Time: 9AM until ?

What: Approximately 30 to 35 tons of rocks

over thirty pieces of equipment from various size saws, grinders, vibratory laps, tumblers etc.

too much to list.

Please tell all your rockhound friends.

Keith and Charlotte



FIELD TRIP INFO:

Howdy **ROCKHOUNDS**.....Ready for another trip?

I've been away from the Tyler Gem & Mineral Club too long.....

As Arnold S would say "I'm back!!!"

Putting together a trip that was done several years ago on the Lindsey Ranch in Mason, Texas. The projected date that I have reserved 2 cabins on the ranch is February 3-4, 2012. The costs will change with participation, but I'm going to say close to \$20.00 per night per person. With a **TOTAL** weekend collecting fee of \$15.00.

Topaz (may or may not find...but let's hope someone does), we've found in the past milky quartz with tourmaline.....Native American artifacts...we will see wildflowers, birds, deer, raccoons, and stars...lots and lots of stars.....



So, if you are interested, we will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting, and all I'm asking for is a \$20 deposit to hold your place. My only request is that if you know you can't go 2 weeks before we leave, please let me know, and your \$20 will be 100% cheerfully refunded to you.

I have already given her my information to secure the two ranch houses.

Laura Wilson

Field Trip Leader for February 2012 to Mason, Texas

CLUB OFFICERS

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P.O. Box 340
Oakwood, TX 75855

VICE PRESIDENT Becky Whisenant 903-795-3652
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Rusk, Texas 75785

TREASURER: Jeri Kitchens 903-245-8822
2533 Chelsea Dr.
Tyler, TX 75701

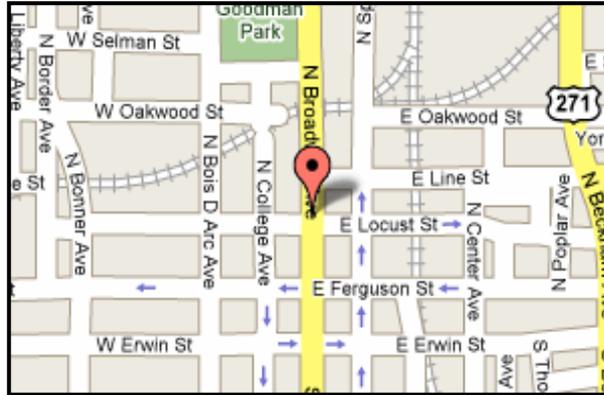
SECRETARY: Penny Hawkins 903-586-4463
134 CR 3151
Jacksonville, Texas 75766

MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: Don Campbell 903-566-6061
3319 Omega Dr.
Tyler, TX, 75701

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

SHOW CHAIRMAN: Keith Harmon 903-581-4068
8316 Oxford St.
Tyler, TX 75703

CLUB ADDRESS: 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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