



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 36

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2010

Coming Shows, 2011

JANUARY 15-16
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS
Fredericksburg Rockhounds
Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird
Johnson Municipal Park

JANUARY 21-23
TYLER, TEXAS
East Texas G & M Society
Rose Garden Center

ETGMS ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Read more about the preliminaries inside this issue!

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR JANUARY

Monthly meeting date, meeting program
and show work day.

1. **Jan 10th club meeting:** Due to the legal New Year's holiday being on Jan 3rd. the club meeting will be held on the second Monday, Jan. 10th.
2. **The Jan 10th club meeting program will be a presentation and demonstration on: "Chain Mail Jewelry" by Robert Ortega.**
3. **The 2011 Gem & Mineral show work day will be on Saturday Jan. 8th at 9:00 am at Don Campbell's office. We will be gathering, sorting and assembling items to be used at the Gem & Mineral show. These items are to be placed on the silent auction table and wheel game for children. Also, we will be placing stamps and mailing labels on the mail out post cards for the show. We need as many members as possible at the work day in order to get everything ready for the show on Jan. 21-23. We also need lots of donations of rocks, minerals and fossils to be used in the silent auction & wheel game. Please bring your donations to the work day. Don's office, LAYNE-TEXAS is located in north east Tyler, just off loop 323 @ 5734 American Legion Rd. 75708. Go north on the East Loop and turn right at the red light at the intersection with American Legion Road. The REO Club is located at the intersection. Layne-Texas is up the hill and on the right in a blue metal building about a 1/2 mile off the Loop. Call don @ 903-520-4085 for directions or questions or e-mail at don-ald1427@hotmail.com**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SHOW!

The Annual Gem and Mineral Show is upon us again. As with each year we need folks to work the various stations.

Those are Front Desk ticket taker, silent auction, fluorescent display, wheel of fortune, show set up and tear down, and to fill display cases. This will be the second year we will have a kids day on Friday so we will need folks to escort the groups of up to 30 or so kids from the demonstration area to the vendors rooms to the food table and display area. This job mostly consists of moving them at the right time from one area to another so we don't bunch up too much in one area. We have a schedule for the time for them to move.

Set up day is Thursday Jan. 20 9 AM till done

First show day is Friday Jan 21 9AM to 4 PM

Second day is Saturday Jan 22 10 AM to 6 PM

Third day is Sunday Jan 23 10 AM to 5 PM

We also have a dealer dinner on Friday night and will need folks to sign up to bring some items for that. If you bring some food, be sure to plan to eat with the dealers as they would love a chance to meet you and get to know our club better.

Call Keith Harmon to get the time slots that we need to fill and volunteer for lots of them. You may find that it is actually a pleasant experience to share your time with the people who love to come to our show.

Keith can be reached at 903-581-4068 If you miss him leave a message and he will call you back.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December meeting was lots of fun ! Good food and fellowship. Gift exchange was fraught with suspense, drama and thrills. Of course the most sought after items were the gifts made by members. We have some really talented people in the club !!!! Can hardly wait to get a clubhouse/workshop so we can have some of those folks show us how they create such beautiful items. Passing on your knowledge helps to keep the craft going to the next generation. It's hard to beat the way you feel when one of your "students" creates a "unique masterpiece" and you watch them discover the joy of discovering the talent they have buried inside them. Along those same lines it's a great feeling to be able to help others that are in need. Something as simple as watching their children so they can get away for a little while to go shopping or run errands, raking their yard, cooking them something to eat, giving them a ride to town, etc. Doesn't cost much, if anything, except a little of your time to show someone that you care. Try it, you'll like it ! Might even get to be a habit. The holidays can be a stressful time with all of the conflicting demands on your time, pressure to get things done, extra expenses, etc. If you focus on these items, you'll easily get overwhelmed and burned out. You might consider a little exercise I do daily to help keep things in perspective. I practice gratitude. I make an effort to think about all the things I have to be grateful for. I am grateful for having the friends and family that put the time demands on me because without them the world would be a much duller, less pleasant place. I am grateful for having things I need to get done because life would be boring with nothing to do. While not directly grateful for the extra expenses I incur during the holidays (people have been known to call me "tight"; I prefer "frugal"), I am grateful for the people in my life that are the cause of those extra expenses. I choose to focus on what I have to be grateful for rather than on what might be a temporary problem. Try it out. What have you got to lose? Until our next meeting, be safe and happy rock hounding.

Rip Criss



DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by Club President, Rip Criss, at 7:08 p.m., December 6, 2010 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX with 18 members and one guest present.

Motion to accept minutes of the November, 2010 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter was made, seconded and motion carried. Jeri Kitchens, Club Treasurer, gave the financial report. A short discussion followed concerning the need for getting a clubhouse, owned by the club. Tom Stringfellow questioned the progress of the efforts to obtain 501c status for the club; Don Campbell said that he and Gene Goar are working on the project as time permits.

Rip reminded members of the sign up sheets for volunteers for the Club Show in January. Don had some notes from Keith Harmon, Show Chairman, who was unable to be at the meeting. The January club meeting will be Jan. 10 because the first Monday of the month falls on a holiday. Don will have his annual "work day" at his shop on Jan. 8 for preparing items for various tables and prizes at the show. Jack Shull reminded everyone to bring any donations they can make to the work day so they can be properly prepared before the show. Don said that he will request Susan Burch to put a notice in the newsletter about the work day and directions with a map to his shop. Jack asked for volunteers to help with the fossil table during kid's day of the show. Members are also asked to sign up to fill up a display case at the show; the club has 20 cases to be filled.

The January, 2011 program will be Robert Ortega doing a chain mail making demonstration and showing how he turns it into jewelry.

Don, Becky Whisenant and Jeri Kitchens talked about a trip to Oklahoma the previous weekend to work on some fossil castings and checking out some road cuts on the way back.

There being no new business, Don reviewed the rules of the gift exchange/take away and then a short break was taken for refreshments. Then the real "business" of the evening got underway with a spirited "Chinese Gift Exchange"; interspersed with finding of gifts labeled "for Don". As Don opened each gift it became clear that they were the work of jeweler/craftsman, Tom Stringfellow. Each gift was created around Don's hobby and they were precious in workmanship and materials. Tom said that he wanted to use this way to thank Don for all of his hard work for the club, including being the club Program Chair and often presenting the programs himself. Each gift was passed around the room to be admired as the truly unique and amazing artworks they are. Following the end of the gift exchange, members continued visiting and the party/meeting continued into the parking lot.

The official meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary

This year, I've used the Barite Rose as part of the headers in the newsletter. It's one of my favorites so I thought you might like to know a little more about them.

“Sand-Barite Rosette”

From Oklahoma Geological Survey; no author given

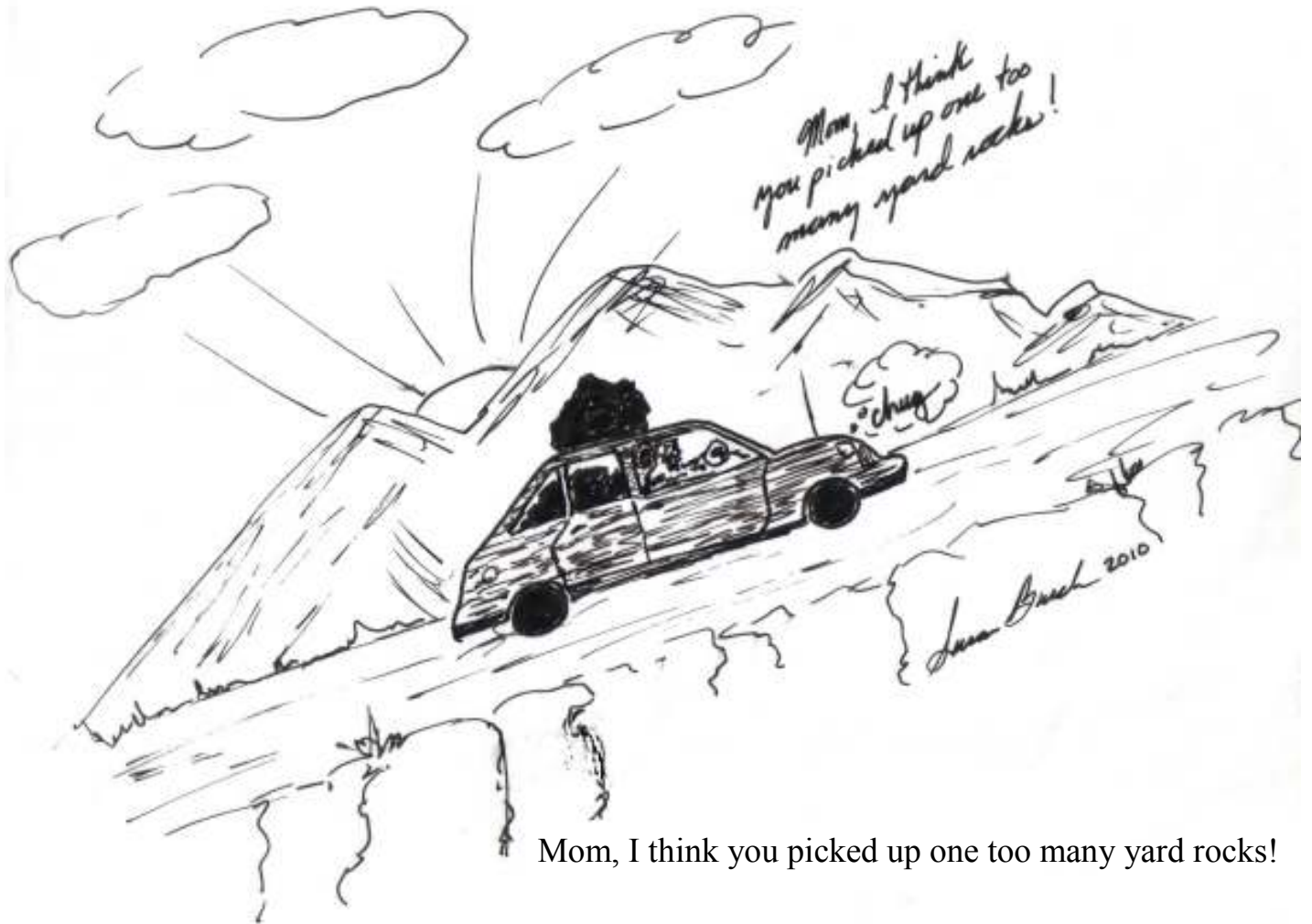
The distinctive concretions known in central Oklahoma as “rose rocks” in allusion to their reddish-brown color and general similarity to a rose in full bloom are petal-like clusters of sandy barite crystals. Their rose-like appearance is due to the growth of barite (barium sulfate, BaSO₄) as a cluster of divergence blades. The central Oklahoma rosettes are distinctive because they grew within ancient red sandstone, incorporating quartz sand grains and acquiring the red color of the host rock.

These concretions consist of sand and barite in nearly equal proportions and thus are best known to geologists as “sand-barite rosettes”, but they also are called “rose rocks”, “barite roses”, or “petrified roses”. Well-formed specimens are highly prized by collectors.

Most sand-barite rosettes are ½ to 4 inches in diameter and consist of 5 to 20 radiating plates, although the largest one known is 17 inches across, 10 inches high, and weighs 125 pounds. They generally occur as isolated individuals scattered through sandstone. Rosettes are harder and more durable than the host rock and weather into positive relief on outcrops. On further weathering they are detached from the rock and occur as individual specimens or are scattered within residual sandy soil. Slow weathering and erosion of the host rock continually expose additional rosettes at the surface.

The sand-barite rosettes of Oklahoma occur mostly in the Garber Sandstone, which was deposited during the Permian Period Of Geologic time about 250 million years ago. They are most abundant along the north-south outcrop of the Garber in central Oklahoma, in a narrow belt extending 80 miles between Pauls Valley and Guthrie. The area just east of Norman is particularly renowned for its abundant and well-formed specimens. Although also known from California, Kansas, and Egypt, the rosettes probably have a greater concentration here in Oklahoma than at any other place in the world. This description is mainly from the following article, which is now out of print: Ham, W. E., and Men-in, C. A., 1944, “Barite in Oklahoma”: Oklahoma Geological Survey, Circular 23, 42 pages, 2 figures, 4 plates. Via Stoney Statements 12/10





Mom, I think you picked up one too many yard rocks!

A ROCK IS A ROCK

By Destiny Clark, age 9
(Granddaughter of Mary Owens)

A rock is a rock and
 You should keep it that way.
 Do you think you could change it?
 It might fall on you and say,
 "I'm hard as can be, you can't change me."
 But it might be surprised someday
 When it does fall and breaks
 And in it's place it can't stay.
 A rock can roll and bump
 And can even bounce,
 And might even lose weight.
 You could weigh it by the ounce.
 But it still stays a rock even if
 It may be soft or hard
 Or even if it falls apart.
 It has to stay in the backyard.



Is It Hard or Tough?

The terms “hardness” and “toughness” are sometimes confused when comparing qualities of gemstones and there is a great deal of difference. Diamond is by far and away the hardest, for it will scratch, cut or polish any other. But for toughness (resistance to chipping and breaking), jade has it beat by a country mile.

A diamond will easily cut and scratch jade but a jade hammer can crush diamond to powder. It is the cross-matted structure of jade that makes it almost impossible to break. Never fear if you accidentally drop a solid jade cabochon on cement. If it breaks, better check it, it’s probably not jade.

The Chinese used jade as an anvil just as we use steel; sometimes the same anvil was used for several generations. Jade, used for axes and hammer-like tools centuries ago, was a practical, useful and highly valued material.

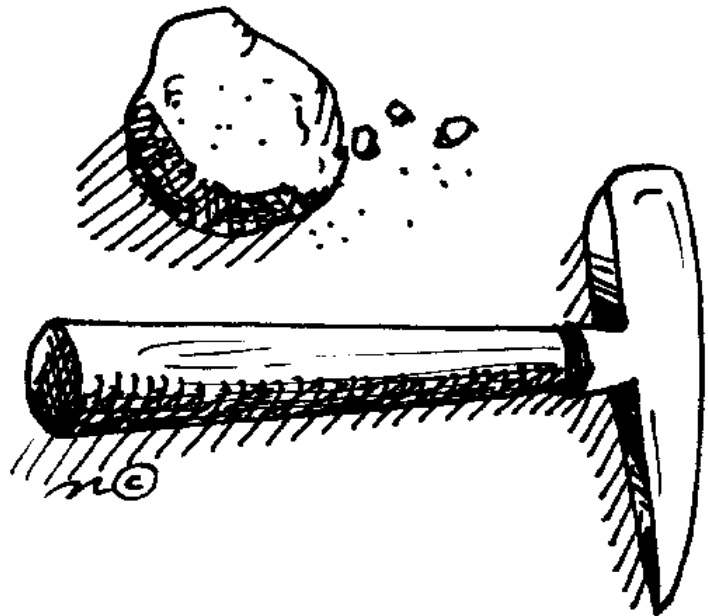
From The RockCollector 9/05, The Mineral Mite & Ore-bits 06/00, The Rollin’Rock 9/05, via Stoney Statements 12/10

Old Miner's Rule

While a miner's tools, equipment and personal belongings remain in or next to a digging, that is his until he relinquishes it either by removing said property or announcing that he is finished digging in that area.

Furthermore, specimens or rocks cached on or near said personal property are also the property of the miner and shall not be touched or removed without his express permission. Every Rockhound should obey this rule.

From the Geode Strata Data 9/05, via Stoney Statements 12/10



Shop Tips Re-Polish Cabs

Did you know that you can re-polish cabs that have become dull from wear without removing them from their mountings? Cut ¼ inch diameter soft leather discs and put three of them on a Dremel or screw type mandrel. Use this tool with Linde A or diamond paste and you can work carefully close to the bezel and around prongs.

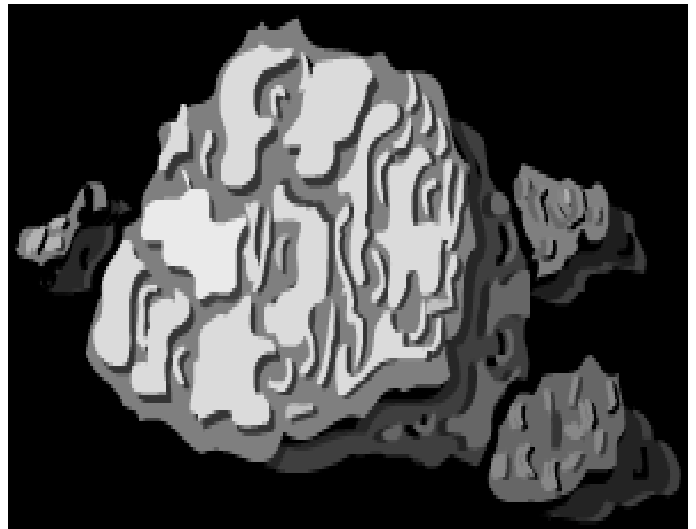
From The Post Rock via The Thumblicker via The AMMONITE 2/01, via Stoney Statements 12/10



THE ROCK COLLECTOR

By Mary Owens

The world is full of people who
Are thrilled at seeing precious stones
That are found in rare quantities
In many varied hues and tones.
Rubies, jade, and sapphire so rare
And diamonds 'specially bring awe
Because their beauty unsurpassed
Rivals anything they e'er saw.
But, a rock collector knows
He doesn't need a grand gem
Or a sparkling diamond
To bring a keen thrill to him.
He can be greatly enthralled
With a big unsightly rock.
It may not shine or be cute,
But, just the shape can unlock
His heart strings that so love rocks.
Or, just a tiny pebble
Could send his poor heart a thump;
His description, a babble.
He doesn't need much money
To collect his heart's desire.
Searching for rocks ev'rywhere,
A collector ne'er retires.



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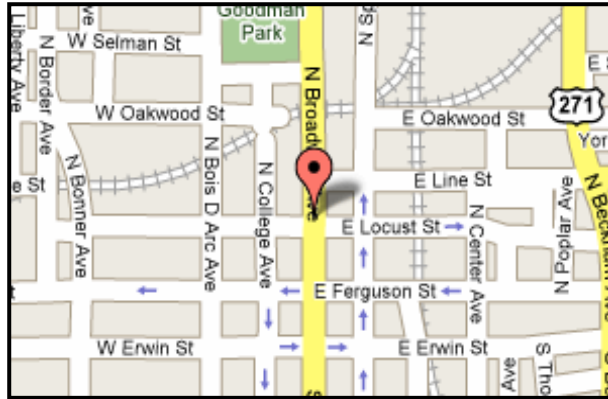
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Tyler, TX, 75701

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

SHOW CHAIRMAN: Keith Harmon 903-581-4068
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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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