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TYLER, TEXAS

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DECEMBER 2019

## Upcoming Events

**JANUARY 18-19****FREDERICKSBURG****ROCKHOUNDS****LADY BIRD JOHNSON PK.****FREDERICKSBURG, TX****JANUARY 24-26****EAST TEXAS G&MS****24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW****ROSE GARDEN CENTER****TYLER, TX****FEBRUARY 16-17****WILLIAMSON CO. G&MS****GEORGETOWN COMM CTR****GEORGETOWN, TX****FEBRUARY 22-23****CLEAR LAKE G&MS****PASADENA CONV. CTR****PASADENA, TX****MARCH 7-8****GULF COAST G&MS****RMB REG. FAIRGROUNDS****ROBSTOWN, TX**

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## President's Message

Welcome to all of our new members!

We had a great meeting this month. We had a good turnout, especially right after the Thanksgiving holiday. We had a good time with the gift exchange game, and there were lots of really cool gifts. To everyone who brought an ornament for the tree, thank-you! The tree looks really good. I want to especially thank Terry and Geva Roberts for setting up the tree. Remember, we still have spots on the sign-up sheets for our annual Gem and Mineral Show in January. Please check out our website, Margaret has worked very hard to make it a premier go-to place for information on the club. Don't forget to send your articles and pictures to the Newsletter editor (Kinney Polve).



I am proud to announce that David Russ was gracious enough to throw his hat in the ring for club president and I am proud to announce he was officially voted in as Club President starting next month. We will have an official ceremony next month, so I can pass the torch to him. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving you as your club president the last 3 years. I have learned a lot, and made lots of new friends. I would like to say thanks to everyone who put up with my questions and mistakes. I would like to extend a special thanks to Kinney Polve for the mentorship he provided throughout my tenure. I will take over the Field Trip Chairperson responsibilities. If you have special interests in places to go or items to hunt and collect, please contact me and we will try to plan our field trips around them.

Have a safe Christmas holiday!

Fred Mahaffey

All of our members need to know the importance of having as complete contact information as possible on the club membership list. In order to enjoy all of what the club has to offer, you need to be notified of upcoming events, activities, and any cancellations that may occur. The newsletter only comes out once a month, and although it's a great source for information, it is often incomplete. Some months we may send out a dozen updated emails on events or cancellations. I want to assure you that our members are the only ones that have access to your contact information. If you are not sure if your current email and phone number are on file, contact Kinney Polve – [kpolve@gmail.com](mailto:kpolve@gmail.com)

## MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its monthly meeting on December 2, 2019. President Fred Mahaffey called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm. He asked for the new member to introduce herself. Fred asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion, but stated an amendment be made to the name of the School Day Coordinator. It was David Russ, not David Pierce. Jerry Sudderth seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Marcia Graham gave the report on the accounts.

### Announcements:

- Kate Yarbrough donated many boxes of slabs, equipment, and books after her father's passing.
- Kinney needs Newsletter contributions including poems for February.
- Margaret Kilanski needs website contributions. January 15<sup>th</sup> is the cut-off date for submissions. The website will be entered in the same competition as the newsletter and its article writers.
- None of the sub-groups will have a meeting in December.
- There will be another critter workshop at the Lapidary meeting in January.
- There will be no field trip this month.
- Field Trip Chairperson – Fred Mahaffey needs help.

### Old business:

There was none.

### New business:

- Randy Harmon reminded everyone that the annual display set-up at the Tyler Public Library will be January 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 10 am. The items will be on display through the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Kinney made a motion to move the election of officers in 2020 to November. David Pierce seconded, and the motion carried.
- Fred Mahaffey asked for officer nominations. David Russ volunteered to be president. Fred asked for a show of hands to elect David president. With that show, David was elected. Fred asked for volunteers for vice-president. There were none. With a show of hands, Terry Roberts was re-elected. Fred asked for volunteers for treasurer. There were none. With a show of hands, Marcia Graham was re-elected. Fred asked for volunteers for secretary. There were

none. With a show of hands, Julia Toombs was re-elected.

- Elections of board members at-large was next. The board nominated Rick Walker and Margaret Kilanski. After a few comments and a show of hands, both were elected.
- Julia showed her donation of two framed jigsaw puzzles to be hung at the clubhouse.

With no further business to discuss, Fred made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Terry seconded, and the motion carried. Everyone got refreshments while numbers were passed out for the gift exchange game. Everyone had a grand time. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2020 at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by  
Julia Toombs, Secretary



## February Special Poetry Edition

There always seems to be a shyness when I say I need a poem for the newsletter, but last time I asked for poems for a special poetry edition, the response was fantastic, not to mention, we had some fabulous poems. Some of you even wrote two or three. I say it's that time again. You have about two months, but don't put it off. You can send them in now, and I will hang on to them until February. I'll even loan you my copy of *Creating Poetry*, if need be.

After two years of waiting, maybe I'll receive a poem submission from one of our junior members. I can always hope.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- There are no scheduled group meetings for the rest of December, due to the holidays.
- As of now, I have no word of any planned sub-group meeting for January, due to preparation for the January Show.
- January 6<sup>th</sup> – Monthly club meeting – 6:45 pm.
- January 11<sup>th</sup> – Pre-show Workshop – 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. We will be making Rock Critters and items for the silent auction. Normally, we try to provide lunch, so you don't have to run off for something to eat. Our President normally brings donuts when he comes in. I hope it doesn't take long to break in this new President. Just a note: David, a lot of us like sour cream donuts. 😊
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Show setup – 8:00 am – until?
- January 24<sup>th</sup> - First day of the show, "School Day" – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- January 24<sup>th</sup> – Dealers' Dinner – 6:00 pm.
- January 25<sup>th</sup> – Show – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – Show – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – Show teardown – 4:30 pm. We will start with packing up extra items from the silent auction, then at 5:00 pm we will pack up everything else.

## FIELD TRIP

There are no field trips scheduled thru January, due to the holidays and January Show. We now can be thankful for Fred Mahaffey volunteering to fill the Field Trip Chairman position. I'm sure he will have a list of upcoming field trips for the January newsletter. If there are places you would like to go or material you would like to collect, please contact Fred - [frederickmahaffey@gmail.com](mailto:frederickmahaffey@gmail.com)

## TYLER LIBRARY DISPLAY

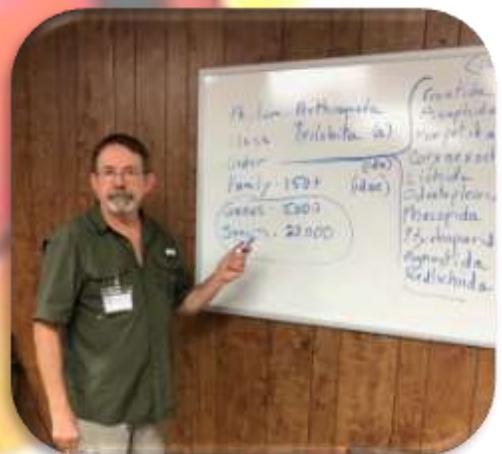
On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be setting up the display cases at the Tyler Library. We do this to make more Tyler residents aware of our organization. We do it in January to coincide with and help promote the January Show. Membership participation is important. This gives us the opportunity to show what we are all about. Such as displaying mineral, fossils, artifacts, lapidary and jewelry projects, etc. The more members we have participating, the more variety there is for the public to see. Randy Harmon always spearheads this project, so if you have any questions, give him a call at 903-539-0975. The items will be in a locked display case through the month of January. We will remove the items on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## FOSSIL GROUP

Our fossil group meeting on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> was attended by six members. We continued our discussion of Trilobites in the geologic record. We discussed the different Orders and Genera of the estimated 20,000 species of this Class within the Arthropoda. Also considered were the global distribution and preservation of Trilobite fossils. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss Texas dinosaurs and locations where they and their trackways have been found.

Margaret Kilanski

*Sorry, the Fossil Group update was misplaced, and missed the November issue. When I get them by text, I easily overlook them. I can't guarantee I'll do better, but I'll try.*



## A Look into the Past

By Julia Toombs

There are a few people within the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society that know me well enough to know that I have a sense of humor. I try to always have some degree of humor in my articles. Colleen Hayes wrote this in January 2004. She gave me permission to rerun it. I hope she didn't experience *all* of them in the same trip.

### Field Trip Notes - How to Have a Successful Day

- 1) Try not to get hopelessly lost.
- 2) Need to avoid - snakes, scorpions, wasps, chiggers, ticks, and sunburn.
- 3) Only have car trouble near cell phone towers.
- 4) Remember water, food, chips, Twinkies, and chocolate. (You will be able to work off extra calories, so take advantage.)
- 5) Take extra clothes for when you fall in the creek, slide in the mud, or crawl in the dirt.
- 6) Take extra Tylenol along for those over 40, for the end of the day.
- 7) Most of all - have fun and good luck. Remember to share.

At the February 2004 meeting the program was a slide presentation on the history of Illinois Fluorite. Two questions were answered by Charles Creekmur and Bill Holbert. I found both questions and answers *very* interesting.

- 1) Why is the term *Spar* on the end of some Carbonate minerals like Fluorspar?

Spar is a word of German origin meaning rock. Feldspar literally means field rock. It is a term loosely applied to any transparent or translucent light-colored mineral that is readily cleavable having a vitreous luster: Iceland spar (Calcite), Fluorspar (fluorite), feldspar heavy spar (Barite). It is applied locally by miners to small clay veins found in coal seams.

- 2) Why does Fluorite come in so many colors?

A variety of *activator* elements as impurities are responsible for the fluorescence in fluorite (especially the rare earth elements), but it is unknown if this essence plays a role in the colors exhibited by the mineral. The term fluorescence comes from the mineral fluorite since the property was first observed in this mineral. Those specimens from Cumberland, England, are usually so highly fluorescent that you can see it in the daylight, although not all fluorite is fluorescent. Color zoning, phantoms, and inclusions of other minerals are not uncommon in fluorite and add to its collectability.

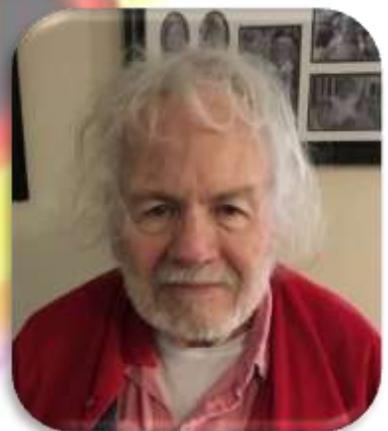
Added by Don Campbell - Fluorite is a Halide, not a carbonate. The different colors are usually stray trace amounts of different ions in the mineral crystal structure. One book says that the color in some fluorite is due to the presence of hydrocarbons. None of his books said specifically which ion caused which colors in fluorite.

Mindat.org says it was named in 1797 by Carlo Antonio Galeani Napione from the Latin word *fluere*, meaning *to flow* for its use as a flux. The element fluorine also derives its name from fluorite, a major source of the element.

This month's biography is by Jim Showen. Jim lives in Tyler.

I was born in Monahans in 1937. My father was an engineer for Gulf Oil and was called to active duty in the Pacific before World War II. After Dad came home, we returned to West Texas. When I was in high school, my first job away from home was working on a gravity meter crew around Lubbock. Later I got to rough neck on a rig near Crane that made a good well at 11,000 feet. My next summer job was for a core lab in Midland while I was a geology student at Oklahoma University (OU). I have a nice core collection from the Permian basin buried in the front yard of my parent's former house in Midland.

While I was at OU, I took a lot of field trips over the state. On one, we were down in a lead and zinc mine in northeastern Oklahoma in the Oklahoma-Kansas-Missouri



lead district. I also found zircon crystals from pegmatites near Lawton, Oklahoma. I went to the OU field camp in Colorado and collected specimens from pegmatites there. After graduation from OU, I did graduate work at the University of Texas at Austin for one semester. I was then drafted into the Army and spent two years in the Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I hunted minerals in North Carolina and Virginia.

When I was discharged from active duty, I worked as a mudlogger on the Texas coast and off-shore Louisiana. Then, I got my Law Degree from the University of Houston. I met my wife while in school there. After graduation, I went to work for the Texas Water Pollution Control Board and lived in Austin for 13 years. We had three children. We moved to Tyler in late 1977 where I practiced law and worked for the City of Tyler for 20 years.

I have traveled to every state except Hawaii and Alaska and extensively in Mexico, Canada, and Turkey. I have visited museums in London, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, and Austin. I hunt for minerals, fossils, and agates.

This is the last biography that I have to share. I hope that my new year will be made happy by the receipt of yours. Let's be friends, not just acquaintances.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

### SHOP TIME

After all that cold weather, we had the week before Thanksgiving, I decided to do some cabbing in my workshop. I've wanted to work on some cabs that I've had lying next to my cabbing machine for several months that are new to me or show some interesting features.

Pictured to the right are two Island Agates from Indonesia in the top row. These agates are new to me and came from a friend about a year ago. Also, in the picture is a plume agate at the left bottom, that I collected on the Stillwell Ranch in West Texas last year. The cab at the right bottom of the picture is a nice Chrysocolla I bought several years ago.

The second picture shows two unknown Mexican agates in the top row, an unknown agate with a beautiful red interior surrounded by clear quartz, and a plume agate that I found on the Stillwell Ranch and the only plume agate that I've found in West Texas that has some yellow plumes in it. Unfortunately, most of the yellow plumes were on the surface and were lost during the cabbing process. As seen in the photos to the right, both of these are also shown in transmitted light. The first Mexican agate also shows chromatography at the top of the cab, which is why I showed it with transmitted light, for greater visibility. The second Mexican agate shows some nice colors, as well as a parallax effect in the picture taken with transmitted light.



*Continued on page 6.*

Also, a friend of mine asked me to wire wrap a Kambaba Jasper cabochon. He wants to give the pendant to his wife. Before wrapping it, I had to try to polish the back of the cab, but did not do as good a job on it as the dealer did on the front. This is the problem that I had when I had tried to polish a cab of this material about a year ago. At least the back looks better now than when it was unpolished. Pictured are the front and the side of the pendant, which shows the 14k gold-filled and twisted Sterling Silver wires I used to wrap the cab. I will give the pendant to him when he and his wife visit us in about two weeks.

Terry Roberts

### **It Takes a Village**

by Marcia Graham

In last month's newsletter, Terry Roberts shared a picture of a beautiful chrysocolla cab he had made. Here's that same cab I wire wrapped in sterling silver. Making it into a necklace, I used silver beads and some long beads Kinney Polve didn't have a use for, and donated to the cause.

Then I traded some paintings for some chunks of turquoise (my absolute favorite stone) from another club member. Kinney sliced them for me and helped me cab two of the slices. I then wire wrapped them in silver and beaded them into necklaces.

Ok, it may not take a village to make pretty jewelry, but it sure is nice having friends in the club helping each other and making our hobbies more fun.



### **Kinney's Bench Tips**

By Kinney Polve

A common dreaded problem when making a cabochon is that it comes loose from the dop stick. There are many things that could be the culprit, but the one that is often overlooked is the dop wax. After heating it time after time, even though you may add a little extra when it gets low, the wax will begin to break down. This will cause it to lose its ability to make a good bond to the cabbing material. Don't dump it out. Oldtimers would add some shellac flakes to the mix, but there's an easier way. Just adding a little bee's wax to the mix will rejuvenate the mixture and solve the problem.

*This is a new series I will try to keep up each month. If you are having a problem at your workbench, drop me a line. I'll try to help.*

To keep your membership current, dues are due by the January meeting. I encourage everyone to pay early, so that you don't accidentally forget, and get dropped from the mailing list. Please make sure that you complete the form in its entirety. Adult members are 18 and older. Please check whether the member is an adult or junior. Yearly membership fee is \$10.00 for an individual, and \$20.00 for a family. Be sure and list your interests, it helps structure the club to better serve the needs of our members. If you plan to mail in your dues, you'll find the club's mailing address on the last page of the newsletter.

**East Texas Gem & Mineral Society***Member Registration Form*

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Dues Paid \$\_\_\_\_\_ CASH CHECK\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Adult \_\_\_\_ Jr. \_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter via email Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Special Interest in Hobby \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_



# Merry Christmas



**Lapidary/Jewelry Group** – Meets on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm, except December and January. Terry Roberts leads this group. Contact Terry to have your name added to the email. [terry.roberts45@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.roberts45@yahoo.com)

**Mineral Group** – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. Contact Charles to have your name added to the email. - [calcite65@gmail.com](mailto:calcite65@gmail.com)

**Fossil Group** – Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. David Russ heads up the group. Contact David to have your name added to the email. [dbruss50@gmail.com](mailto:dbruss50@gmail.com)

**Gemology Group** Meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. The group is led by Richard Armstrong. Contact Richard to have your name added to the email. [keltfire@msn.com](mailto:keltfire@msn.com)

**NEWSLETTER CONTENT:** Please send any original info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the editor at the address or email listed below by the 10th of the month. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call. **AFMS & SCFMS Newsletters will be emailed to members, as to not duplicate that information here, unless it needs to be repeated.** Board meeting minutes are not published in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact an officer on the Board. The information in this newsletter may be reproduced for nonprofit use, as long as credit is given to the source.

Check us out on the web: [WWW.ETGMS.ORG](http://WWW.ETGMS.ORG)

**Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society:** Is to promote the study of Geology, fossils and the Lapidary Arts. The public is always invited to attend regular monthly club meetings.

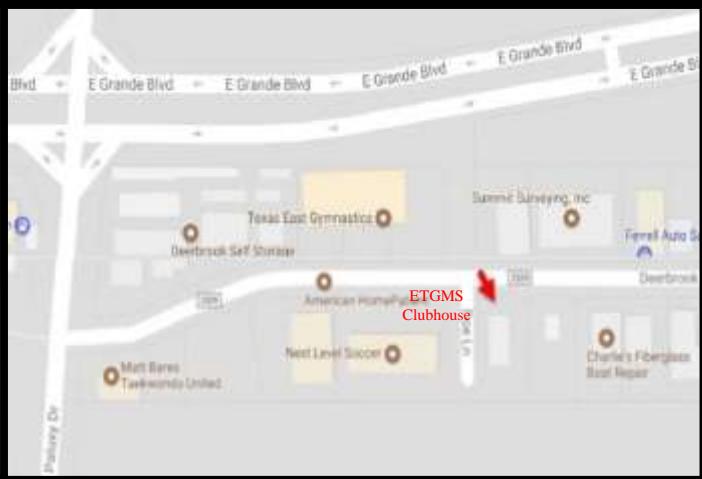
**ANNUAL DUES:**

**Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00**

**MONTHLY MEETING:**

**WHEN:** First Monday of the month unless it's a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



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**CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES**

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