

# ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



PAGE 1

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 4

APRIL 2020

## Upcoming Events

**Due to cancellations because of the Coronavirus outbreak, I can't give accurate information on upcoming events at this time.**

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*Header text background is courtesy of a photo from Robert Redmond.*

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

With all the news focused on the COVID-19, and social distancing happening all over the place, life has changed for many of you. As for me, things have changed a little, but I don't allow it to disrupt my normal routine. Living out in the country, I'm social distanced pretty much all the time. I've always been one to wash my hands, so that's no added routine. This no hand shaking, hugging, and keep a six-foot distance is something to adjust to. I find myself on the telephone a lot more these days.

This time of the year, many of you are like me, busy working in your gardens and getting all of your spring crop in the ground. You may have been sprucing up that flower bed, or getting out the leaf blower and cleaning out your rock garden.

With all the club activities being cancelled this month, and no monthly meeting, so there are no meeting minutes for April. I also didn't receive a President's Message this month. And as you will notice as you peruse through the newsletter, you'll notice there was little participation by our members in this month's newsletter.

In this time of social distancing, it's very safe to submit items for the newsletter, but they won't get to me without your help. Please send in your articles, photo, poem, etc. for the May newsletter, so we will actually have a little content for our members.

Kinney Polve

**All club activities are suspended through the end of April, due to the Coronavirus.**

**This means no sub-group meetings, regular monthly meeting, field trips, etc. from now until sometime in May.**

## Mining in Rusk, Texas

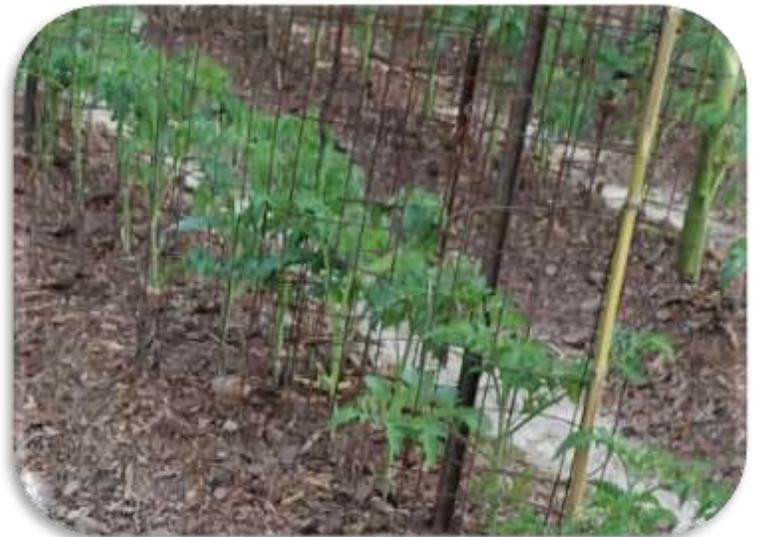
By Penny Hawkins

We were at the KOA in Rusk this morning and the owner has set up a cute activity - his own mining company! I asked Jack if I could take pictures for our newsletter and he said, "sure". I thought you might like to have something offbeat for the newsletter now while everything is shut down. And lots of our members have RVs and grandkids could go mining!



I had an exciting opportunity to handle a few rocks recently. Okay, maybe it wasn't all that exciting, but it did give me an opportunity to show off my tomato plants in the newsletter. Kinney Polve

## Using Rocks in Your Garden





This is a photo that arrived past the cutoff time for last month's newsletter. It goes with the article "A Rockhound Goes to School" by Becky Whisenant.

### Shop Time

I decided to polish as many cabs as I could while demonstrating cabochon making at the ETGMS annual gem and mineral show last January. The bottom right picture shows five lavender moss agate cabs that I cut from several slabs from an unusual rock that I found during a trip to the Stillwell Ranch last year. I have never seen this color of moss agate from west Texas before. The bottom middle picture shows a colorful Queensland agate from Australia and what we call a Texas-Montana agate found on a gravel road in south Texas. We call it that because it resembles Montana agates, but occurs in Texas. The bottom left picture shows a gem quality sodalite and two red and black plume agates.

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The picture below left shows a nice variegated Tiger's Eye which has a blue patch of Hawk's Eye in the middle of the cab. The picture below center shows the Texas-Montana agate in a close-up view. The picture below right shows a close-up view of the Queensland agate with its beautiful colors.



A friend of mine gave me some agate slabs in return for me wire wrapping some cabs for his wife. The picture to the right shows the five cabs that I made. I took individual pictures of each cab so the detail will show their true beauty. My wife loved the agate in the pictured below left the most, since it had so many colors and patterns. This is a "Rojo" agate that came from a site located a few miles northeast of Ciudad Manuel Benavides (aka San Carlos) in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. The cab below in the left center photo came from Needle Peak in Brewster Co., Texas. It exhibits the typical vibrant green and yellow moss found in agates from this site. Although not shown in this cab, another very attractive feature that sometimes shows up in agates from this site is a vibrant yellow semi-circular yellow "Pom Pom" that has radiating needles in it. I hope to find one of these agates to show the club sometime.



Although the three cabs on page 5 do not resemble petrified wood, they are all examples of special features found in completely agatized wood samples found on gravel roads in south Texas between Zapata and Laredo. The top left picture shows a cab with different shades of brown and grey chalcedony. What isn't readily visible until it is viewed under magnification is the edges in some of the brown strands that appear to be curling up as if they are going around an invisible band in the chalcedony. The top center picture shows an unusual pattern that I've



never seen before. My friend explained that this is called "pocket rot" wood. In this example, there are no traces of a wood pattern due to the complete replacement of the wood by agate. The open spaces of white chalcedony were pockets left behind in the wood where it had rotted away before petrification. The top right picture shows a really nice "Shrinkwood" agate. It has a beautiful yellow and black pattern to it that shows what happens when a special type of pattern forms when wood forms a checkered pattern when it dries out. The black represents the wood portion and the yellow represents the agate filling between the replaced wood. I believe carpenters refer to this as "checkering", but I'm not sure about this.

I completed these cabs several weeks ago, but had to do some more polishing on some of them, especially the bloodstone in the first picture. I bought several rough pieces of the bloodstone from Keith at one of his rock sales a couple of years ago and have finally gotten around to slabbing and cabbing at least one of them (bottom left). These agates take a very nice polish, but perhaps it is too good since it provides a good reflection of the camera while taking the picture. The center bottom picture shows a large agate with an amazing complex of patterns and colors in it. Unfortunately, I don't know where this cab came from. The bottom right picture shows a large agate called Aztec Purple that I bought from Larry Sanchez (San Juan Gems) at our annual show. The primary color is more of a lavender than the deeper purple usually seen with amethyst.





These cabs represent an eclectic assortment from the last batch of cabs I completed a couple of weeks ago. The top left picture shows a really nice Shrinkwood agate cut from a piece of petrified wood that was replaced by agate and found on a South Texas gravel road by a friend. It has an interesting pattern of interlocking dry rot pieces of the wood with a lighter filling of material between the wood pieces. The top center cab has several cracks running through it, but I wanted to cab it because of the beautiful carnelian color running through it. The top right picture shows a nice malachite cab with an interesting pattern. The bluish color showing at the bottom of the cab is not a part of the cab, but rather a reflection from the shirt I was wearing at the time I took the picture.

I just wire wrapped a new pendant (Chrysocolla with gem silica) for the wife of a friend of mine. He had made the cab and given it to me to make a pendant a few months ago. I had to rework the cab to make it wire wrap friendly because the girdle was too thick to wire wrap in some places even using six wires in the frame. I had to place the binding wires a little differently (not symmetrical or perhaps esthetic), so that the gem silica portion of the cab would not be hidden. I also kept the ornamental wires that come down on each side of the bail above the top of the cab to avoid covering any of the gem silica. Terry Roberts

### Mindat Update

Mindat has recently added a fossil section and tonight I uploaded a few in my Mindat home page to see how it goes. Google Charles Creekmur's Mindat Home Page and click on "my photos" or get to it by the club website, mineralogy group and the link to my page from there. Staying pretty close to the house with the virus business, I even have my cows social distancing, I pour their range cube out in little piles 6 foot apart. I can't get them to keep their masks on though. Charles Creekmur



**Sorry for the late arrival of your newsletter. I want to thank the members that contributed to this month's newsletter. As always, I need your submissions. I know there's a lot of club related activity going on, let me know about it.**

**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)

### THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

**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.

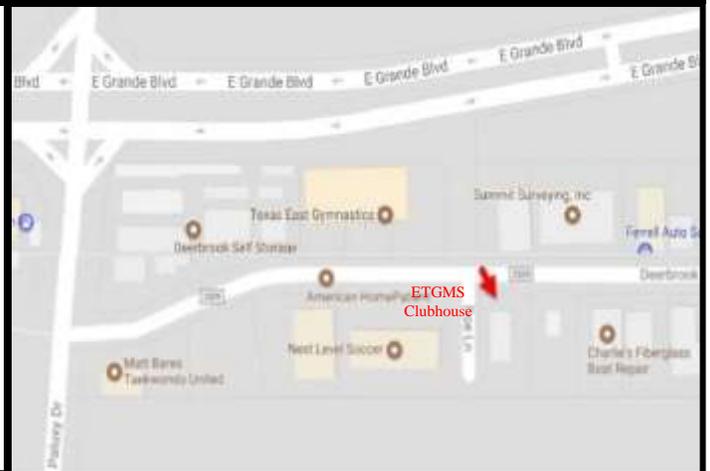
#### ANNUAL DUES:

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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